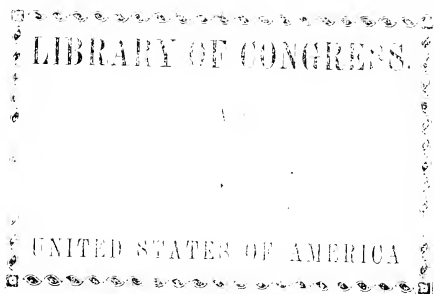


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GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL
H I S T O R Y
OF THE
COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO,

WITH INTERESTING INCIDENTS AMONG THE ABORIGINES AND
PIONEER SETTLERS;

WITH
TWELVE ILLUSTRATIONS.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED A GENERAL VIEW OF THE

STATE OF WISCONSIN.

TOGETHER WITH A CENSUS TABLE FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME.

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DESIGNED BY MARTIN DITCHER AND JOSEPH H. GIBSON.
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OSHKOSH:
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HENRY A. CROWELL,
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P R E F A C E .

WHEN we look upon the broad expanse of a mighty River, after contemplating its width and depth and the velocity of its current, which pours its world of waters into the bosom of the great deep, the mind naturally floats up the majestic stream in search of the great fountain whence it flows.

When we traverse an ancient empire and behold its walls, its pyramids and other products of almost infinite labor away back in the darkness of unrecorded time, the mind wanders up the current of past ages, until inquiry burdens the imagination with countless questions: demanding when, by whom, and for what purpose these prodigies of human skill and industry were performed. We carefully trace the broad river through all its windings, from its influx to the ocean to its farthest mountain stream and remotest headspring, and instead of a mighty kingdom of overflowing waters, disgoring a perpetual flood, we find, far up some ragged mountain, a cleft rock, weeping a pearly stream, no bigger than an ox might drink; and deep in some tangled dell a spring boils up, whose modest stream, half hid by moss or leaves, struggles for the association of its affinities, till it meets its mountain sister. United they rush on with redoubled energy to meet in kind embrace ten thousand thousand sister streams, which, from as many sources, find their devious ways to meet and form this mighty river.

If the history of a nation could be as accurately traced through the course of time, as the channels of a river, we should find their head spring and fountain source in some secluded dell in a vast wilderness, where a few solitary individuals, like the far off mountain spring, unknown to the great

world, were silently cutting a channel for a population to flood the country. The pioneers, or headsprings of civilization, more transitory and evanescent than the gurgling brook or silent rill, in almost every nation have passed away unnoticed and unknown; with no historic stone to mark the scene of an embryo world for actual life, or tell the names of those who felt its travail throes.

To erect some humble, but enduring monument at the birth-place of civilization in the County of Winnebago; to notice its progress, some of its obstructions and conquests, in its early struggles to become part of the broad flowing stream of humanity in Wisconsin; and to place in the annals of history the names of some of the heroic pioneers through whose energies the recent hunting grounds have been reduced to fruitful furrow-fields, the wigwam exchanged for elegant dwellings, marts of trade, seminaries of learning and houses of worship, is the prime object of the following pages; while, as a secondary consideration, we would spread a truthful picture of the natural advantages, unrivalled prosperity and hopeful prospects of this section of the Great West; that those of less favored regions, who are seeking the advantages of a new field of enterprize, may have something better than vague and uncertain report to direct them in their search for a new home. And while the design of this work is to give in a truthful manner, a description of the County of Winnebago, it seems but just, to give a brief sketch of the great State of which Winnebago County is a small, but integral part.

The immense resources of the Great West, the varied nature of its climate, the variety and fertility of its soil, its admirable facilities for commerce and transportation, its improvements, population and wealth, have long been a subject of deep interest to the older States and distant countries.

For several of the preceding years, the troubled state of Europe, and shortened crops in the Eastern States, have made the West more conspicuous, as the granary of the

world, than ever before, and placed Wisconsin in the front rank of the first column of the bread-supplying States. A deep interest has been awakened in the mind of the agriculturist, the mechanic, the speculator, the scholar, the statesman, the patriot and the philanthropist. Active enquiry and investigation demand reliable information upon a subject of so vast importance as the sources of wealth in Wisconsin. Multitudes are visiting, and will continue to visit the State to select for themselves a location, congenial to their taste, and favorable to the interests of their several vocations. To aid the traveler in the pursuit of his object, we have given a brief sketch descriptive of each county, showing where government land, timber, or minerals may be found; the present and prospective condition of the various sections; and such other information as we deemed valuable to the stranger who wishes an accurate statement of the present condition of Wisconsin in a condensed form. If the work shall prove an actual benefit to our country and our race, we shall rejoice that we have performed the labor.

WISCONSIN.

THE State of Wisconsin lies between $42^{\circ} 30'$ and 47° N. latitude, and between 87° and $92^{\circ} 30'$ W. longitude, and is bounded on the North by Lake Superior; N. E. by the northern Peninsular of Michigan, separated by a line drawn from the head waters of the Brule, to the Montreal River; on the East by Lake Michigan; on the South by Illinois; and on the West by Iowa and the Territory of Minnesota. It is estimated to contain about thirty-four and a half Millions of acres.

Entirely destitute of lofty mountains, its general surface is rolling; giving to its streams a good current, but seldom delighting the eye with cascades. The most hilly part of the State which has been surveyed, and the nearest approach to mountains are the bluffs of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, which rise several hundred feet above the waters that glide beneath them. The general surface of the State is about 800 feet above the level of the ocean. In the region of Lake Superior, the streams are short and precipitous; the declivity being more abrupt than in any other part of the State. The soil is generally excellent; not inferior, as a whole to any State in the Union. With the exception of the pineries and the mineral region of Lake Superior, it would be difficult finding an equal amount of natural facilities and advantages for agriculture. Three grand divisions are clearly marked in the State: *Prairie*, *Opening*, and *Timber* land. The prairies predominate in the southern part of the State, and are also abundant in the West approaching to Minnesota. The heavy timbered lands lie along the west shore of Lake Michigan, in the counties of Milwaukee, Washington, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Keewaunee, Door and part of the counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac and Waukesha. The timber comprises Hickory, Black Walnut, Bass, Oak, Beach and Maple, interspersed with Pine in Sheboygan, and Pine and Hemlock in all the counties north. Black Marl

predominates in the lower timber and prairie lands; loam in the openings, and rolling prairies; and by turns, almost every variety in the upland heavy timber in the northern part of the State. Throughout the State the streams of water are more or less fringed with timber. That a geographic sketch of any section of country should serve the purpose of utility by instructing the understanding of the reader, it is indispensably necessary that it should be so drawn as to give a correct idea of its connexion with, and relation, to other locations of which the reader has some previous knowledge; otherwise it would be like an attempt to describe some definite portion of infinite space, an abortive labor. So also of history; whether of a nation, a particular section, or an individual; we must be instructed of the influences of surrounding circumstances, or we gain no full knowledge of the subject of such history. And as the object and design of this work is "to gather from still living witnesses and preserve for the future annalist, the important record of the romantic and teeming past; to seize, while yet warm and glowing, and inscribe upon the page which shall be sought hereafter, the bright visions of song, and fair images of story, that gild the gloom and lighten the sorrows of the ever fleeing *present*; to search all history with a careful eye; sound all philosophy with a careful hand; question all experience with a fearless tongue, and thence draw lessons to fit us for, and light to guide us through the shadowy, but unknown future."

To enable us, as near as possible to approximate to this grand object, and to place the county of Winnebago in a clear and comprehensive light; it will be necessary that we first invite the attention of the reader to a general, but brief description of the State of Wisconsin; that having viewed the whole, he may be the better prepared to judge of the *past*, particularly presented for his consideration. The natural wealth of Wisconsin consists in its mines, fisheries, forests, and last, yet far above all, the inexhaustible treasure of fertility in its soil; which in connexion with other advantages has already made it one of the great *producing* States. The salubrity of its atmosphere and purity of its waters, so congenial to health give it a preference in the mind of the emigrant to locations of the greatest fertility which are not thus favored. All the products common to temperate climates are success-

fully cultivated in Wisconsin. The natural pasturage of the prairies, marshes, openings and woodlands constitute it a perfect grazing country; and enables the new settler to keep as much stock as his business or necessities require, without cost (except the curing) of hay for winter, which the marshes supply in abundance. Much good stock may now be found, where the country has been settled for six or eight years; and wool-growing is becoming a prominent business with many farmers. In the southern part of the State corn is produced with very little cost. But wheat is the great staple grain of Wisconsin; of which it exported in 1855 more than four millions of bushels, of a quality surpassing that of other Western States; that of the northern being esteemed better than that of the southern part of the State. No part of the *Great West* offers a more inviting field of enterprise than Wisconsin. No other State possesses so many natural advantages without greater drawbacks; and no other State can boast of equal prosperity and success for the last five years; and yet, but a mere fraction of her agricultural resources have been developed. Her almost boundless forests of pine are only beginning to be brought into market; her inexhaustible mines of lead, copper and iron are beyond the power of computation; and the fisheries of Lake Superior and Michigan have but just commenced to be known as a source of wealth.

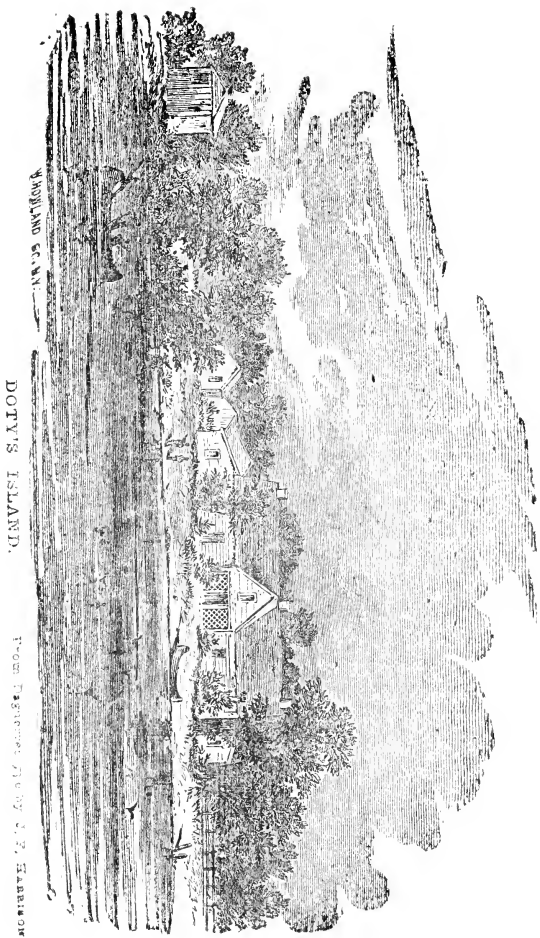
To avoid the danger of a simple statement of facts being received by strangers as the romance of imagination, we shall occasionally present tables of various articles of Wisconsin growth and manufacture from the Lake ports, which amounted in 1855 to more than eighteen millions of dollars—a sum, which considering the infancy of the State, and that as a general rule, the settlers in Wisconsin were men who were not able to purchase land in the older States, speaks well for its resources and the energy of its people.

Great inconvenience is experienced in most of the Western States for the want of lumber. Wisconsin has an abundant supply. North of the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers the land is more broken and hilly; much of which is covered with a luxurious growth of pine; the quantity manufactured from the various regions or lumbering points in 1854, was estimated as follows:

Black River,.....	48,000,000
Chippewa,.....	60,000,000
Green Bay and Oconto,.....	100,000,000
Manitowoc,.....	35,000,000
St. Croix,.....	70,000,000
Red Cedar River,.....	20,000,000
Wisconsin,.....	125,000,000
Wolf River,.....	40,000,000

Total, 498,000,000

This estimation did not include the amount floated down the Wolf into the Fox River and thence into Lake Winnebago. Not less than thirty steam mills along the shores of this River and Lake are constantly supplied from this source; and several millions are annually carried by Rail Road from the head of the Lake to Rock River and thence floated to a southern market. There are also numerous mills scattered over other sections, from which no statistics have been obtained, which, in all, would warrant the manufacture in the State as high as five hundred and fifty millions of feet in 1854. since which time the business has increased at least 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. Shingles, lath, staves, posts &c., are not included in this estimate. We shall have occasion to speak more particularly of the pine which comes into Fox River in connexion with the county of Winnebago.



DOTY'S ISLAND.

FROM THE PICTURE BY J. F. HARRISON.

POPULATION OF WISCONSIN.

The increase of population, and progress in wealth and improvements, of an agricultural district for a series of years, is always the most reliable source of information, from which to draw conclusions, and strike a just ballance between the aggregates of advantages and disadvantages of a new country with which we were not personally acquainted. To supply this source of information and make it as perfect as possible, with great care we have copied every enumeration which can be found upon the official records of Wisconsin. The reader will be able to judge for himself whether sterility, dearth or disease have ever materially retarded the growth of Wisconsin.

It will be remembered that all the enumerations prior to 1836 were made as part of Michigan Territory. Twenty years ago, this beautiful State was almost an unbroken wilderness, with less than twelve thousand inhabitants, scattered upon its broad surface; and these mostly adventurers, seeking the advantages of trafic with the Indians, and other fortuitous circumstances which might occur in the romantic scenes of the almost unexplored regions of the "Great West." In less than twenty years the population becomes more than half a million. Indian villages have given place to populous cities; the Indian trail is buried under the track of the Railroad; the wigwag has made room for the sturdy farm house; and for the country store; and, in five years, the State's frontiers have been three hundred miles farther westward. The State has supplied the needs of the the Emancipation War. From 1850 to 1855 the population increased by about two hundred and fifty thousand; the increased facilities for travel, a better knowledge of the West, together with the unusual hard seasons at the East, have all contributed to give a more rapid increase to the population of Wisconsin for the past year, than at any former period.

CENSUS OF WISCONSIN FROM 1820 TO 1855.

COUNTIES.	1820	1830	1834	1836	1838	1840	1842	1846	1847	1850	1855
Adams,	187	6,868
Bad Axe	4,823
Brown	952	964	1,957	2,706	3,048	2,107	2,146	2,662	2,914	6,223	6,699
Buffalo	275	407	836	1,060	1,746	832
Calumet	615	3,631
Chippewa	3,638
Clark	838
Columbia	1,969	3,791	9,565	17,965
Crawford	492	692	810	1,220	850	1,503	1,449	1,444	1,409	2,399	3,323
Dane	172	314	776	8,289	10,935	16,654	37,714
Dodge	18	67	149	7,787	14,905	19,140	34,540
Door	739
Douglas	385
Dunn	1,550
Fond du Lac	139	295	3,544	7,459	14,512	24,784
Grant	2,763	3,926	5,937	12,034	11,720	16,169	23,175
Green	494	930	1,594	4,758	6,487	8,583	14,727
Iowa	1,589	2,633	3,218	5,234	3,478	5,029	14,906	7,963	10,479	15,205
Jackson	1,098
Jefferson	463	914	1,638	8,860	11,464	15,339	26,869
Keewaunee	1,109
Kenosha	10,730	12,707
La Crosse	3,904
La Fayette	9,335	11,556	16,064
La Pointe	364	595	417
Manitowoc	235	263	629	1,285	3,712	13,043
Marathon	466	1,447
Marquette	18	59	986	2,261	8,642	14,873
Milwaukee	2,892	3,131	5,600	9,565	15,922	22,791	31,119	46,265
Monroe	2,407
Oconto	1,501
Outagamie	4,914
Ozaukee	12,973
Pierce	1,720
Polk	547
Portage	1,623	646	931	1,504	1,267	5,151
Racine	2,054	3,475	6,318	17,983	19,238	14,971	20,673
Richland	903	5,584
Rock	1,701	2,867	12,405	14,720	30,717	31,364
St. Croix	1,419	1,674	624	2,010
Sauk	102	393	1,003	2,178	4,372	13,614
Shawano	254
Sheboygan	133	227	1,637	5,580	8,386	20,391
Trempealeau	493
Walworth	1,019	2,611	4,618	13,439	15,039	17,866	22,662
Washington	64	343	965	7,473	15,447	19,476	18,897
Waukesha	13,793	15,866	19,324	24,012
Waupaca	4,437
Waushara	5,541
Winnebago	135	143	732	2,748	10,167	17,439
Total,	[1,444]	[3,245]	[5,400]	[11,618]	[18,130]	[30,945]	[44,478]	[155,277]	[210,546]	[305,566]	[552,109]

This population is spread over fifty counties, into which the State is divided as follows:

ADAMS—Lies on the Wisconsin, and is watered by the Lemonwier and other rivers. Springs and small streams are abundant; has as good land for agricultural purposes as in any part of the State; warm, quick and extremely productive. Openings predominate, yet there are many dense forests; some excellent pine. Population 6,407, and rapidly increasing. Here is much excellent land, yet subject to entry at government price. Germantown is the County Seat. Mauston is the largest village in the county. Quincy, Cascade, Dell Prairie, Necedah, Dustin's Mills, and Wauceda are new and prosperous villages. The La Crosse and Milwaukee Rail Road passes through this county.

BAD AX—Is one of the best of counties, notwithstanding its ridiculous name,—which should be exchanged for a better one—lies on the Mississippi River, well watered, good water-power; prairie, interspersed with fine timber-land; some good pine. Viroqua, the county seat, is situated in a beautiful grove. Springvale and Towerville have each excellent flouring mills. Population 4,823, with a great increase for the last year.

BROWN—Was originally one of the *three* counties in this State and embraced all the State North of Milwaukee, and East of Wisconsin River, but is now reduced to one of the smallest counties in Wisconsin. Green Bay, one of the most ancient settlements in the State is situated at the mouth of the lower Fox, the largest River in the State. The Fox River Improvement is giving to this place new life and importance.

BUFFALO—Lies on the Mississippi River at the mouth of the Chippewa; it is but thinly inhabited, but containing the best of land subject to entry or pre-emption is rapidly filling up with enterprizing settlers. Well watered and offers superior advantages to locate a desirable homestead at \$1,25 per acre. It is in the La Crosse land district and entries can be made only at that place. Waumandee City is the county seat fifty miles up the river from La Crosse.

CALUMET—Is generally covered with a heavy growth of hard timber with a little pine in the north eastern part; lies on the east side of Lake Winnebago; is the residence of the remnants of the Stockbridge and Brothertown Indians which has materially retarded its progress; has a fertile soil and well watered. Population 3,633. Has increased very rapidly the past year.

CHIPPEWA—This county in the northern part of the State is 91 miles long and 66 miles wide, a small part only has been surveyed and brought into market. In this county is agricultural land of an excellent quality, and one of the most valuable pineries in the State. Here is abundance of land subject to entry, offering to the hardy woodsman the most inviting prospects. There are several mills in constant operation; one at Chippewa Falls which cuts daily about 60,000 feet and employs 400 men to supply, manufacture, market the lumber, &c.

COLUMBIA—Is situated nearly in the center of the populated part of the State, lies on the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers. Nearly the whole of the county is rolling prairies; good soil, well watered, but deficient in timber. Land all entered almost as soon as it was in market. County seat Portage City; at this place the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers are two miles apart, but connected by a canal. The La Crosse and Milwaukee and the Milwaukee and Watertown Railroads will soon pass through this county. The Wisconsin Central Road has its northern terminus at Portage. The population of this county in 1850 was 9,565; in 1855 17,960; increase in five years 8,395.

CRAWFORD—County formerly embraced all of the State north of the Wisconsin River, but has been whittled and shaved down to a small territory, lying in the angle made by the Wisconsin and Kickapoo passing through its center. The county seat is at the old military post "Prairie du Chien," a beautiful location on the Mississippi River. The county is well watered and an excellent soil; has a good pinery on the Kickapoo. Abundance of lead and some copper have been found with very little exploration. As the Milwaukee and Mississippi Rivers approach each other, its waters terminates the easy advance of the great lead road, and no more lead can yet be found here.

CLARK—County has recently been set off from Chippewa, and has but few inhabitants, but land is cheap; has a vast forest of pine, and much good farming land which may yet be entered at government price. A flouring mill on Black River at Weston's Rapids, where the road passes from Steven's Point to Hudson.

DANE.—This county is in the southern part of the State, about half way between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River. One of the best agricultural counties in the State. Rolling prairie and openings. Madison is the county seat and the Capitol of the State; possesses much wealth and beauty. In 1850 the population of this county was 16,689. In 1855 37,714, and still increasing with greet rapidity.

DOOR.—Is a narrow strip lying between Green Bay and Lake Michigan, with very few inhabitants. Much of the land is said to be good; government land, by the graduating act is here but fifty cents per acre, and is now rapidly being taken by actual settlers. Here is some good pine. Some of the Islands are in this county. The principal settlement is Washington Harbor on Washington Island, opposite Green Bay.

DODGE.—Is one of the first class for agriculture. Its surface is moderately rolling, diversified with prairies, openings and some heavy wood lands; with a good supply of water-power. Iron Ridge is a vast accumulation of rich iron ore, which is just beginning to be extensively manufactured; farms are valuable. Juneau is the county seat. Beaver Dam, Horicon and Fox Lake are fine villages, rapidly improving. Two Wards of the city of Watertown are in Dodge county, the other three are in Jefferson. Population of the county 34,054. Well supplied with Railroads.

DOUGLAS.—This county lies on the shore of Lake Superior; was set off from La Pointe in 1854. Only a small share has been surveyed and brought into market. This is on the north line of the State, yet the winters are represented very mild. The first settlement was made at Superior, in 1853, and in 1855 there was a population of 700. This will undoubtedly become a place of great importance in a very short time; those who are willing to isolate themselves from the old world for a few years for the sake of making a fortune, here find a promising and romantic field. The land abounds with mineral wealth and the waters with fish. It is the head of the long line of lake navigation; and will ere long be in connection with the Atlantic cities by continuous Railroads. Lands can now be entered at government price. Forest game is abundant.

DUNN—Is a new county lying on the Chippewa River about fifty miles from the Mississippi; has but few settlers though the soil is excellent and well watered, with some timber and hard wood, sufficient for fuel and fences. Its resources are yet undeveloped, the lands not entered.

FOND DU LAC County has a population of 25,085. As we have published a history of this county we refer the reader to that work.

GRANT.—This County is in the southwest corner of the State, and one of the oldest settlements. Its mineral wealth attracted its early settlement, although the fertility of its soil is not surpassed by any other county, yet its distance from market has checked the progress of agriculture beyond the necessities of a home market and kept lands cheap. Great quantities of lead are found and manufactured here. There is yet in the northern part of the county excellent government land, which, by the graduation law is now reduced to fifty-cents per acre. The low price of land, the excellence of the soil, the approach of Railroads and the advanced price of produce have all tended to increase the population for the last two years. Farmers who want desirable homesteads can make great profits by purchasing in this county. Population in 1850 16,196, in 1855 23,130.

GREEN—Is an agricultural county in the south part of the State, bordering on Illinois. Its good lands are all taken and becoming sources of wealth, it has some timber lands though prairies predominate; its waterpowers are generally improved. Population 14,715. Monroe is the county seat, with a population of 2,120.

IOWA—Is a very rich county, both in soil and minerals. Copper and lead are abundant, and what is not common in mineral regions, the soil is of the best quality. Well watered, convenient to Railroads, and yet some good government land to be had. Mineral Point is the oldest settlement and has smelting works for lead and copper. It is the central point for mineral operations. Population 14,440.

JACKSON County is situated on the Black River about twenty-five miles from the Mississippi. The northern part of this county is richly supplied with fine timber, and the southern part is mostly prairie of the best quality. Has abundance

of rich iron ore and good waterpower, and is rapidly settling. A vast amount of lumber is floated down Black River. Iron works of various kinds in process of erection. The lands are not all entered.

JEFFERSON County has but a small share of prairie, having openings and a small amount of timber land; supplies a good amount of timber. It lies on Rock River, which, with its branches, furnish good waterpower. It is a rich and beautiful county. Watertown is the principal place, but there are several large and flourishing villages, with all the conveniences and elegances of wealth. Railroads supply the county with an easy transportation of their products. Lands are high. Population in 1850 15,000, in 1855 26,866.

KEVOSHA—Is in the south-east corner of the State, on Lake Michigan; one of the oldest counties in the State, nearly all prairie, and in a high state of cultivation, all necessary improvements to make land truly valuable. Population 12,373.

KEWAUNEE—Extends from Lake Michigan to Green Bay; has but few inhabitants whose business is principally lumbering. Here is plenty of government land and generally very good, though being heavily timbered it is not so easy for beginners.

LACROSSE—Lies upon the Mississippi and Black Rivers, is to be the terminus of the Lacrosse and Milwaukee Railroad, reaps advantages from the vast pinery on Black River, has good farming land and is reputed very healthy. These combined advantages have attracted great attention for the past two years, and much of the land has been taken, yet some good government land can be found.

LAFAYETTE County is in the mineral region and its mines have engrossed almost the entire energies of the people; the soil is rich and inviting but has been neglected for the more uncertain business of mining; but the stimulus which has become so general in the State for agriculture has began to operate in Lafayette county. The Population is now 16,000 and is fast increasing. The Mineral Point and Southern Wisconsin Railroad passes through this county.

LA POINTE County is a tract of wilderness about fifty-four miles square on Lake Superior and a group of Islands called

the "Twelve Apostles." It has not been surveyed, and very little is known of it only that it abounds with timber, is supposed to contain minerals and has an excellent fishery.

MARATHON—Extends from Lake Michigan south to Towns 26 and 27 a distance of 128 miles, in its greatest width it is 42 miles; partly surveyed and begins to open a field for lumbering. The great part of this tract is yet owned by the government and like the rest of the lumber regions its principal value is in its prime.

MARQUETTE.—This is a beautiful agricultural county lying along the Fox River; prairie, openings and woodland, well watered and has water power. Some of the most delightful farms in the State may be found in this county. The best lands are all entered and rapidly coming under cultivation. In 1850 the population was 8,642, since that time Waushara county has been set off from it and its population thus diminished was in 1855 14,824. The Railroad from Horicon will soon reach Berlin in this county.

MANITOWOC—On the shore of Lake Michigan about eighty miles north of Milwaukee, good land, well watered and timbered, harbor at the mouth of Manitowoc River; is rapidly increasing in business and population. A Railroad is now in progress of building from this place to Menasha. Population 13,050.

MONROE County was set off from Lacrosse in 1854, is yet almost an entire wilderness of oak opening and pine groves; the soil is generally light, but quick, warm and productive; watered by the Lacrosse and Lemonweir rivers, principally government land, many choice selections can yet be had. Here are also some of the best pine groves in the State. Population 2,151.

MILWAUKEE—Is too generally known to require a notice in this work. Its population is 46,027.

OCONTO—Is one of those almost limitless, unsurveyed and unexplored counties of timber, and inferior soil, lying along Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Lumbermen can make good investments here. Population 1,502.

OUTAGAMIE—Lies on the Wolf and Lower Fox Rivers, with the happy combination of navigable waters, the best

water-power in the State, plenty of valuable timber, and an excellent soil. Appleton is its principal village and the location of Lawrence University one of the finest institutions in the State. The government land is not all taken, and the multiplied advantages are now drawing a crowd of settlers to this county. Population 4,940.

OZAUKEE—Is on the Lake shore, next north of Milwaukee; has but eight towns, cut into small farms, well cultivated, and of course lands are held at high prices. Population 12,977.

PIERCE—Is a new county on the Mississippi at the mouth of the St. Croix River, the soil of part of this county is good and part covered with pine, plenty of water-power. Land mostly subject to entry. Population 1,548.

POLK—Was cut off from the northern part of St. Croix, and comprises more than 2,500 square miles, has but a few scattering inhabitants, has much good farming and timber lands subject to entry. Timber, prairie, and openings are beautifully interspersed in the southern part of the county. Trout and various kinds of fish are abundant in small lakes and streams.

PORTAGE—Is on the Wisconsin River, several of its branches pass through it. Lumbering is its great business, pine is the prevailing timber, the soil generally light and sandy, yet there are glades of hardwood, sugar-maple &c., with strips of the very best of soil for agriculture, much of which is now being brought under cultivation. The great number of hands employed in the manufacture of lumber have hitherto been supplied from other regions.

RACINE—Lies on the lake, south of Milwaukee, a small county of excellent land, thickly settled, land in a high state of cultivation and very valuable. Population 20,667.

Rock County lies on both sides of Rock River, is bounded by the State of Illinois south. Prairie and openings but no timber land; the soil very rich, but there is a lack of water in some parts of the county. The county is highly prosperous, farms well improved, productive and valuable. Railroads accommodate every part. Population 31,364.

RICHLAND—Lies on the north side of the Wisconsin River, is but thinly settled, good soil, well watered and well timbered with maple, walnut, oak and pine, interspersed with rich

prairies, the surface is rolling, the water pure and soft and abounds with fish. Much land remains to be entered. The line of the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad passes along the south line of this county.

SAUK County is north and west of the Wisconsin river. The Baraboo passes through this county; north of which the soil is rich and well adapted to agriculture. On the south rise the Wisconsin bluffs, stony and precipitous. Forests, openings and prairies constitute the farming land, with pine up the Baraboo. There is much unsettled land in this county. The line of the Milwaukee and Lacrosse Railroad crosses this county. Population 13,644.

SHEBOYGAN—Lies on the Lake shore, fifty miles north of Milwaukee; is well timbered with walnut, maple, oak, beach and pine; good soil, mostly settled and productive; land is high. Population 20,391.

SHAWAUNO—Is mostly covered with pine timber, which is easily floated down Wolf river. The soil is a sandy loam and fertile, lying on an elevation above the river, is dry and warm. Here can yet be found good government land.

ST. CROIX—Has a gently rolling surface with all the varieties of soil. Prairie, openings, and forests of the various kinds of hardwood and good pine. It lies at the lower end of the St. Croix river, manufactures much lumber and is now attracting much attention. Population 2,040.

TREMPELEAU—Was set off from Buffalo in 1854 and contains about twenty Townships of land of an excellent quality for farming purposes, offering great inducements to immigrants as the lands are now in market at government prices. It is watered by the Trempeleau and its branches, and bounded by the Mississippi and Black rivers. A few villages are springing up on the banks of these rivers.

WASHINGTON—Lies a little back from Lake Michigan, twenty-five miles north of Milwaukee, heavily timbered; good soil; cut into small farms and well cultivated, principally by Germans and Irish. Population 18,897.

WAUPACCA—Is new, but rapidly settling, lies on both sides of Wolf river, has prairie, openings, timber, hard and pine almost in every part of the county; an excellent soil and well watered. Steamboats pass through this county from Oshkosh to New London. Plenty of government land.

WAUKESHA—Joins Milwaukee on the west; an excellent agricultural county, with some waterpower; was settled early and now has some of the best farms in the State. Population 24,012.

WALWORTH—An excellent agricultural county, was settled early and has now all the conveniences and luxuries attendant upon industry and prosperity. Population 22,662.

WAUSHARA—Formerly known as the "Indian Lands" was set off from Marquette in 1851. The Fox river passes through one corner of this county; it possesses a good soil and offers strong inducements to immigrants in its fortunate combination of openings and timberland; well watered, with good waterpower; a navigable river, and a rapidly approaching Railroad, and yet plenty of government land. Population 5,541.

UNSURVEYED LANDS.

Besides the lands which have been surveyed and brought into market there are large tracts yet unsurveyed and almost unexplored, as very little is known of them except from the reports of Hunters and Indian traders. The amount of the unsurveyed land is estimated at about 14,500 square miles; principally lying in the northwesterly part of the State, and almost without inhabitants, except the remnants of a few scattered tribes of Indians who make this their hunting grounds, although their titles are nearly all extinguished. These lands are reported to be covered with hemlock, spruce, interspersed with groves of pine, tamarack and cedar swamps and occasional ridges of great extent of hardwood, sugar-maple being abundant; with plentiful springs and streams of pure soft water, abounding with fish; the soil appears of an excellent quality. These ridges afford natural and convenient routes for roads at various distances through a large share of this region, and although this vast territory is at present esteemed nearly worthless, the period may not be very remote when the now rapidly increasing population of the more southern and fertile soils, which are destitute of timber, will demand supplies from this vast wilderness. Minerals are presumed to exist in this broken region, yet all is matter of conjecture, and it must be the work of future generations to discover whatever resources it may possess.

FIRST SETTLEMENT AND GOVERNMENT.

The earliest known visitors from the civilized world to Wisconsin, was in October 1660, when Mesnard, with his company of French Missionaries arrived at Che-goi-megon on Lake Superior. In 1672 Hlones and Dablon visited Green Bay and explored the country from the Fox river to the southern part of Lake Michigan. The next year Marquette, a Jesuit missionary with Joilet, an agent of the French government, and five other Frenchmen, embarked from their mission, near Mackinac, on the 13th of May. They arrived at Green Bay, where they found an Indian settlement or village, and procured guides to conduct them up the Fox river to Portage on the Wisconsin, which they descended until they reached its mouth, on the 17th of June 1673. This was the first discovery of the Upper Mississippi river.

The French claimed, and held the government of the territory until 1763, when at the treaty of Paris, it was ceded to Great Britain, who retained it until the Independence of the United States was acknowledged by that country in 1783, when it was claimed by Virginia as a part of the Illinois country, conquered by Col. George Rogers Clark. Its possession was retained by Great Britain until 1796, when it was surrendered in accordance with Jay's treaty, ratified the previous year. On the first of March, 1784 it was ceded by Virginia to the United States. By the Ordinance of the 13th of July 1787, a government was provided for the Territory northwest of the Ohio river, which Territory was divided into two separate governments, the western called Indiana, by an act passed May 7th 1800. An act dividing Indiana Territory and organizing Illinois was passed February 3d 1809. April 18th 1818, an act of Congress authorizing the people of Illinois to form a State government, set off all that portion of the Territory north of the parallel of latitude $42^{\circ} 30'$ and west of the middle of Lake Michigan, to the Territory of Michigan. In 1835 Michigan having assumed a State government on the east side of the Lake, a session of the Territorial Legislature was convened at Green Bay. This was the first Legislative body which had ever assembled in Wisconsin. It did no business but pass some memorials to Congress. An act of Congress establishing a territorial government for Wisconsin

was passed April 20th, 1836, and territory organized July 4th of the same year. On the 12th of June, 1838, the Territory was divided, and that portion lying west of the Mississippi organized into a new government named Iowa.

The first legislative session after the full organization of Wisconsin, was held at Belmont, (now Lafayette Co.) Oct. 25, 1836, the second in Burlington, (now in the State of Iowa,) Nov. 6th, 1837. At this session the seat of government was located at Madison, where the next session of the Legislature was held, Nov. 26th, 1838. Oct. 5th, 1846, a convention was held at Madison to propose a Constitution for a State government. This Constitution was rejected by the people at their election, the following April. A second convention was held December 16th, 1847, which prepared a Constitution, which was submitted to, and approved by the people, at the April election, and Wisconsin admitted into the union of sovereign States, May 20th, 1848.

Although Wisconsin is yet in its infancy, so richly has industry been rewarded with abundant and valuable crops, that Railroads have already sprung into existence and successful operation, in various directions, through nearly all the populous counties, and like a resistless current, are stretching themselves through the newer counties to the Mississippi, westward, and through the vast forests, northwestward, to the copper mines and lake Superior.

The traveler in Wisconsin will find abundant means of conveyance to enable him to visit any part of the State which is inhabited. Steamboats are continually running between all the ports on Lake Michigan and to Green Bay. From Fond-du-Lac to Neenah and Menasha on Lake Winnebago, and thence to Green Bay. From Oshkosh to Berlin on Fox river; from Oshkosh to New London, on the Wolf. From Green Bay up the Oconto. On the Mississippi the whole of its boundary length. On the St. Croix, as far up as the town of that name, and as many other streams for short distances as business requires. Large business towns not accessible by Railroad or Steamboat, are frequently visited by eight, ten, or a dozen stages and express carriages per day.

There are many plank roads in the State which serve a valuable purpose for a time; leading from rich agricultural

districts to port towns; can only serve the purpose of convenience for a brief period, and the ever increasing business demands that they give place to the iron rail and the steam engine.

That the reader should obtain some just conception of the products of Wisconsin, he should first be informed that the vast amount of immigration to the unsettled lands in this State and in Minnesota absorbs the surplus produce of the frontier settlements for a large distance, and that we have no data for the amount of this home market, and then look at the exports from the different Lake towns, where tables are kept of nearly all that is shipped to a foreign market.

In 1854 the shipments from the port of Racine of Wisconsin produce and manufacture as entered upon the books of collectors and other places of record, amounted in total value to \$1,381,691.

Kenosha,\$1,710,337

Milwaukee, 5,785,000

Of which 2,052,319 bushels of wheat, and 155,651 barrels of flour formed a part. Five mills on the waterpower near the city made 100,000 barrels of the flour. The shipments, the same year, as near as can be ascertained, from

Ozaukee,\$160,000

Sheboygan,663,169

Manitowoc,880,270

Green Bay,194,435

From the Bay shore of Lumber and Fish,374,435

These exports do not include any of the Copper or Lead of Wisconsin, the latter being principally shipped from Gale-na goes to the credit of Illinois, while in 1854 the amount from the Wisconsin mines was estimated at 15,000 tons.

The Copper is shipped on Lake Superior, the value of which is great but we have no reliable data from which to estimate, but feel that it is safe to say the entire exports of Wisconsin, including lumber and metals, cannot fall short of \$20,000,000. And this in a State, which, since the memory of young and vigorous men, had neither seed, field or plow, Bible or spelling-book.



INDIAN CHIEF, OSHKOSH.

From Daguerreotype by C. P. Harriess

ANTIQUITIES.

We borrow the following sketch from the *Tribune*. "Few subjects have a stronger claim on the people of the West than the aboriginal remains scattered over the land. They constitute the only mementos and annals transmitted to us from the ancient races that once inhabited its broad prairies and dwelt on the rising shores of its beautiful lakes and rivers.

To the liberality of the Smithsonian Institute, we are indebted for a late publication, on the antiquities of Wisconsin, a work of merit, and prepared with much research and care by I. A. Lapham.

The antiquities described in the above publication are chiefly earthworks, with occasional excavations—varying in figure, size and elevation. These are found in numerous localities, near the borders of the lakes, or on the margin of water-courses all over the State. It is curious to notice that they are chiefly found at points already selected as the most favorable sites for modern settlement, showing that the instincts of both civilized and uncivilized are alike attracted to those localities which combine at once the beautiful and the useful.

In proceeding north on Lake Michigan, the first point noticeable for its remains, is a few miles south of the Wisconsin line, in Illinois, where are found some nine conical or round mounds from three to five feet in height, and about thirty feet in diameter. These are disposed in a serpentine row along the crest of a ridge of sand, and were undoubtedly burial places of the dead.

At Kenosha were found indications of a manufactory of arrow heads, and other articles of flint, for which abundant of material was furnished by the boulders and pebbles along the lake beach and shore.

At Racine there are a number of very interesting remains, chiefly on the high ground near Root river, from one to two miles from the Lake. Here are numerous circular burial mounds, though of a small size and elevation, embraced in

one circular enclosure, with several tapering ridges. The mounds are without systematic arrangement, from five to fifty feet in diameter, and from one to seven feet in height. Dr. Hoy, of Racine, opened one in which were found the skeletons of seven persons, in a sitting posture, facing the east, but accompanied with ornaments. In another he discovered two vases of pottery, one made of cream colored clay and white sand, like pale brick, of the capacity of five quarts, the other, which was of a red brick color, was smaller. Both are thought to resemble those in culinary use among the Burmese. The great antiquity of these remains is made clear by the gigantic size of the trees now standing on them—one with three hundred rings; showing as Dr. Hoy estimates an antiquity of a thousand years. But the most numerous group of these mounds lies about a mile west of Racine, and a part of them has been embraced in the modern cemetery of that beautiful city.

The numerous earthworks about Milwaukee, attest at once the attractiveness of that favorite locality to the aboriginal inhabitants. They extend from Kinnickinnic Creek, near the "Indian Fields," where they are most abundant, to a point six miles above the city. They occupy the high grounds contiguous to the lake and streams, but not the immediate shore, and a considerable number are appropriately enclosed in the "Forest home" cemetery of Milwaukee. Many of the mounds in this region are of large extent; chiefly from one hundred to four hundred feet in diameter, and are laid out in fanciful forms, resembling the figures of turtles, lizards, birds, the otter and buffalo; not a few have the form of a war-club. In some instances one mound is elevated so as to overlook or command many others, which has led to the conjecture of its being either an observatory, or more probably, an altar mound for sacrificial or religious rites.

At Sheboygan and Manitowoc, similar antiquities are found though to a smaller extent. Many bear resemblance to simple breast-works for defense, being about four feet in height, and twelve feet broad at the base.

On leaving the lake shore, fine remains are to be found on the borders of the interior waters of Wisconsin. On the Fox or Pishtaka river, are several interesting localities—one a little north of west from Chicago, where were counted on the

brow of a hill twenty seven mounds from one to four and a half feet in height, and from fifteen to twenty-five feet long. The principal points of interest on the Pishtaka are at and near Waukesha, where have been disintered many pipes and specimens of pottery, and in the neighborhood of the village of Pewaukee where is a remarkable collection of lizard and turtle mounds—one having a length of four hundred and fifty feet.

The basin of Rock River with its tributaries is perhaps exceeded by no part of the North-west in the interesting character of these aboriginal remains. Without particularizing those found a few miles above Fulton, where the river expands into a beautiful lake, abounding in fish, a natural attraction to the red man, it may be worth while to notice more at length, the more remarkable remains found at what has been termed the "ancient city of Aztalan." The locality has attracted much notice as one of the wonders of the West, and exaggerated accounts have gone forth of its brick walls and buttresses—its stone arches, &c., in all of which there is hardly any shadow of truth. These remains were first discovered in 1836, and hastily surveyed by N. F. Hyer, Esq., the year following.

On the West branch of Rock River may be seen a ridge of earth (not of brick) extending around three sides of an irregular parallelogram—the river forming the fourth side. Its length, at the north end is, is 331 feet; on the west side 1,419 feet, and 700 feet on the south side, making an average length of 2,750 feet, and enclosing an area of seventeen and two-thirds acres. The ridge is about 22 feet width, and from one to five feet high, the corners not rectangular, and the embankment not straight. The so-called buttresses are simply enlargement, about 40 feet in diameter, at intervals warping from 61 to 95 feet, giving the appearance of so many mounds, with a connecting ridge. Irregular masses of red clay in the embankment, in some instances partially baked by burning burning grass or straw, have led to the popular belief of the employment of brick in its construction.

At the south-west corner, of the interior, is found a truncated mound, having a level area on the top 53 feet wide on its west side, and seen from high ground near has the appearance of a pyramid "rising by successive steps, like the gigantic structures of Mexico." This is supposed to have been the

most sacred spot, as well as the highest. The exterior wall curves around this pyramid, and is also protracted by two parallel walls outside the embankment. A similar pyramid elevation is found at the north-west corner, while various low and smaller ridges are to be seen within the enclosure, with connecting rings or circles, supposed to be the remains of mud houses.

The structure above described was intended for sepulchral or other religious uses, rather than for military defence, is made probable by the disinterment of half-burned human remains from one of the buttresses, together with fragments of pottery and charcoal. It is confirmed by the material fact that the whole structure is commanded, in a military point of view, by a parallel ridge, extending along the west side, within arrow shot distance.

The strong resemblance this structure bears to the temple mounds of Ohio and the States south, places it in the same family with that class which finds its highest type in the finished monuments of Mexican art. Hence the name given to this locality of Aztalan—a derivative from the Aztecs of Mexico, among whom existed the tradition of a migration from the north. The dissimilarity of these remains to the animal shaped mounds commonly found in the West, is worthy of notice, and it may have been, as Mr. Lapham supposes, a sort of Mecca, the periodical resort of the race that constructed it. It is sad to say, however, that this highly interesting work of antiquity, like many others, is suffering injury at the hands of civilized man, who is furrowing it for grain, or digging for its hidden treasures. Cannot this work of the stroyer be stayed, and these precious monuments of a race that no longer lives to tell its story be preserved.

Besides the antiquities of Aztalan, there are yet others in the valley of Rock river, beyond Ixonia, at Wolf Point, memorable as the point where Black Hawk made his stand in 1812. At Hartford, there has been found a bird-shaped stone, much revered by the Winnebago Indians, and five miles farther, a ridge one thousand feet in length. But the most extensive and varied group is at Horicon, numbering about two hundred common mounds, among which are modern graves of the Potawatamies; sixteen of the mounds are of a cruciform shape.

It would require more space than propriety allows to give in detail the various works of antiquity on the Neenah or Fox river or Green Bay—on a branch of Grand river where are some one hundred mounds, one called, from its figure, “the man” though with some inequality in the length of its members—on the basin of the fine Wisconsin river, where at the “Dells of the Wisconsin,” is an enclosure with an area of 45,088 square feet, large enough to hold 2,000 persons, fortified by double walls which may have been protected by palisades; and at Iron Creek, is still another fort surrounded by a fosse or ditch in a parallelogram, and symmetrical in its figure. We might pass on to notice the curiosities of the Lake Vieux Desert, with its beautiful island so favorable for cultivation and defence to the primitive race, and showing an interesting elliptical embankment in its centre; and the yet more attractive remains in the region of Lake Superior, where have been found mounds in the forms of mathematical figures, one in a regular pyramid, like that in the walls of Aztalan.

Should the reader desire a more detailed account of these reliques of American antiquity, and others, we have not particularly referred to, at Madison and elsewhere, he will find them in Mr. Lapham’s valuable memorials, from which we have freely drawn. It is gratifying that public attention is directed to these remains which deserve a thorough examination from men of science. It is clear that but little is yet known of them. Farther and more careful examination may throw a flood of light upon the race who have left them to us, of whom we now know little more than a glimpse at these remarkable earth-mounds reveals—a few bones, a few bits of pottery, pipes, wrought sometimes in artistic forms, a few rude implements—this is all. A single example of hieroglyphic characters is given us at Gale’s Bluff, near La Crosse, on the Mississippi, forbidding the hope of learning much, save by inference and comparison. Yet much is possible to scientific research, as is witnessed in the long obscured monuments of Egypt and Babylon.

Mr. Lapham supposes that the race who left the greater part of these monuments were the progenitors of the existing Indian tribes, and that this is rendered probable by the resemblance of the pots and vases in figure &c., to those now found in old Indian villages, and to those still made

by the Maudan and other tribes. He also supposes there was a gradual transition in the form of the mounds. They are found in all figures, from the full circle through the oval and elongated mounds to the oblong and long ridges. He considers the oldest to embrace those formed in the figures of animals, and the great works at Aztalan; that the next in the order of time were the conical mounds erected for sepulchral uses—these coming down to a recent period. Indications of garden beds have been found in connection with some of these mounds, which are planted in geometrical figures or in right lines; these he places latter. The most recent are those bearing marks of plantation by modern Indians, with no observance of regularity or order. This theory supposes a singular and sad degeneracy in the latter race of the red-men. It is worthy of notice, that the animal shaped mounds are chiefly confined to the territory embraced in the State of Wisconsin. A few have been referred to as in Ohio.

It is greatly to be desired that public care should be bestowed on the preservation of the few monuments left us, as the legacy from the ancient occupants of the West. Such there are in our own State—a few mementos—all we have or can have of their history. It is unfortunate for Illinois, that, among the Institutions of that State, she cannot yet number a Historical Society, to gather, garner up and elucidate the materials of her history. Wisconsin has set us an honorable example of enlightened and patriot interest in this department of science, well worthy of our imitation.”

EDUCATION.

Perhaps no State in the Union is more actively and efficiently engaged in providing the means to secure to all its children a good practical education, and prepare them to become useful in the world, than the State of Wisconsin. By an act of Congress, one Section in each Township, or one thirty-sixth part of the whole State was donated for the support of its common schools; increased in 1841, by a further donation of 500,000 acres. These lands are sold according to their value, ten per cent of the purchase money is paid when the lands are entered, and the balance remains on interest at seven per cent. They have generally sold much higher than the government price; but at an average of \$1.25 per acre. The School lands of Wisconsin when all sold would create a fund of over \$1,200,000; another addition will accrue from the swamp lands estimated at 3,000,000 acres, which will be valuable as meadow lands. The proceeds of these sales are put into the treasury, and the interest only divided annually pro rata to the different counties.

The State Superintendent is elected by the people and holds his office two years. His duties are the superintendence of all the schools in the State. There is also a town Superintendent in each town, and other town officers to attend to the interests of local schools. There is not only the necessary machinery, but it is generally kept in "running order," and so applied as to make the common schools the nurseries of a good practical education. Teachers are generally employed with much more reference to their qualifications and success in teaching, than to the amount paid as compensation. In towns which have been settled eight or ten years, the traveler will discover a far greater number of neat and valuable school houses, with pleasant play grounds, in Wisconsin, than among an equal number of inhabitants of the old and long settled states; and the internal arrangements of these little seminaries bring no reproach upon the outside appearances. In the counties which are mostly settled, "Teacher's Institutes" have been organized, which hold semi-annual sessions of a week; here the teachers discuss the modes of instruction

and government, the merits of the various text books, &c., through the days session; and one of their number Lectures upon some branch of education in the evening. The State Superintendent frequently attends sessions of the county Institutes, and their influence has tended to train the teachers in a course of effective usefulness, and add much to the educational interests of Wisconsin and to give to her common schools a dignity and respectability which they would not otherwise possess, and while the common schools have thus been cared for and elevated, the people have not forgotten to provide for the maturing and perfecting the education of such students, as might seek the advantages of Academic and Collegiate departments. The Congress of the United States gave 144 Sections of choice land for the benefit of a State University in Wisconsin. These lands have been selected, and the proceeds expended in the erection of the University buildings at Madison, which are already completed, and the College in successful operation. There is also one at Beloit, in Rock Co., under the especial superintendence of the Congregational and Presbyterian denominations, which is in a prosperous and flourishing condition.

Carrol College, at Waukesha, is under the charge of the Presbyterians, has a noble stone edifice, an able corps of professors, and fair prospects of eminent rank among literary institutions.

The Roman Catholics have a College with many students, at Sinsinewa Mound in Grant county, which supplies the educational necessities of the Catholic Faith.

A College at Beaver Dam in Dodge county is rapidly progressing under the auspices of the Baptist denomination, and no doubt will soon be in useful operation in that city, which now stands unrivalled in the State for its progressive energies.

PRESENT AND FUTURE.

We copy an article which was drawn up with great care, and published in the spring of 1856 in nearly every paper in the State, as giving a truthful and intelligent view of the condition and prospects of Wisconsin at that time.

"If coming events cast their shadow before, Wisconsin must needs become the "Empire State." The youngest now of the five giant off-springs of the immortal ordinance of '87, she is yet in swaddling clothes—whilst Ohio, the oldest, is now fairly decking herself in the "Toga virilla." Wisconsin, although the youngest of the "five," has given evidence by her vigorous growth, her sinewy nervous frame, and her feats of infantile prowess, of what may be expected of her adult age.

As her growth in the past has not depended upon a miracle, so her future development will result from natural causes. Other States have grown because they contained natural elements of activity and wealth. These elements exist in Wisconsin to a degree not found in any other State west or east. We have arrived at this conclusion after looking over the whole course of past increase in population and wealth in this and other States, and fearing the criticism of this opinion may be the too common expression of "humbug," or be traced to that bountiful spirit which abounds in vague generalities that proves nothing and satisfies but few, we append reasons for this opinion, and challenge the severest scrutiny. Geographical position is a most important element of growth and prosperity. Wisconsin is located between $43^{\circ}50'$ and 47° of north latitude. This is the northern temperate region, and is the one in which man has exhibited most energy and development. Her atmosphere is cool, clear and dry, and consequently invigorating. Billious and miasmatic affections, the scourges of Michigan, Illinois and Iowa, are unknown. Health and longevity, two most desirable blessings, are consequently attainable here. From a table of the last U. S. census, (an impartial report of course,) we obtain the following facts:

This table gives the relative health, progress, and deaths of the several States, and illustrates that the number of deaths in ratio to the number of living is—in the State of Maine, 1

to 77; Vermont, 1 to 100; Connecticut, 1 to 64; Illinois, 1 to 73; Iowa, 1 to 94; and Wisconsin, 1 to 105; and this is not only a fair comparison with the above named States, but exhibits the least number of deaths proportionate to the population of any State in the Union. This fact, as "good wine, needs no bush."

Commercial advantages can be ascertained by simply mentioning her position. On her eastern border is Lake Michigan, on the north Lake Superior, and on these Lakes in conjunction with Lake Erie already floats a commerce, by the tabular statements of the census returns, greatly exceeding our entire foreign trade—on her west runs the Mississippi river the entire length of the State, 400 miles, connecting her with St. Louis, New Orleans and foreign nations. These facts need no comment. Her productive soil is an element of wealth not sufficiently known to be fully appreciated. Wisconsin is pre-eminently an agricultural State, and is capable of becoming as wealthy as any one of the western sisterhood. By the late census and other data, it may be safe and fair to calculate that there are about one and a half millions acres of cultivated land in the State; which, as now occupied, constitute about 50,000 farms, more or less tilled.

Besides this one and a half millions acres of improved land, there is within the area of the State above 30,000,000 acres of land, of which at least 20,000,000 is suitable to be converted into productive and pleasant farms—enough land to make two millions additional farms—waiting for occupants; and may be purchased at low prices, ranging from \$1 25 to \$60 00 per acre.

In regard to the value of improved lands in the new States, the same report shows that the average value is—in Illinois, \$7 99; in Iowa, \$6 09; in Texas, \$1 09; and in Wisconsin, it is \$9 48—a very fair show for a young State.

And by looking carefully through the tables, we find that average value of products per acre, exceeds that of the other States named, in about the same proportion that the land exceeds their per acre in value. Draw a line from Manitowoc to Portage, thence directly to the Falls of St. Croix, the farming lands lying south of this line, and comprising nearly one half the State, are not equalled in all respects as farming lands in any State of the Union. North of this, a belt of

hard timber extends east and west 150 miles on the latitude of Stevens Point—from 50 to 100 miles in width. The soil of this region is fertile, and the timber its present wealth. Unlike the prairies, building material and fences are convenient, and no country produces better or more wheat. This is the staple crop, and combined with numerous streams afford the best facility for grazing. This peculiarity, (abundance of water,) pervades the entire State, and presents inducements for cattle growing not found in other prairie countries where running water is found at distances too great for cattle. The water power on the St. Croix, Black, Chippewa, Rock, Crawfish, Wisconsin, and other rivers surrounded by these agricultural regions, and every kind of raw material, and abundant lumber—without any competition in the Mississippi valley—this water power is but partially used, but in time must be most valuable. Eastern men can appreciate this important fact, and we need not designate the points to make the water power of this State an important element of wealth and greatness.

The immense Pineries at the source of these rivers and convenient to their various falls—taken into account with the scarcity of timber in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri, affords as treasures inexhaustible. They are at present demanded by these States. Most of these rivers empty into the Mississippi, and are navigable for rafts, whilst not a few are accessible at certain seasons for boats of large size.

On the southwest the country abounds in Lead, and is extensively worked; on the north, the Copper mines have challenged the interests of eastern capitalists. These mines give employment to labor and offer a home market for immense agricultural products, as well as foster manufacturing on a most extensive scale. With this—and without this advantage many of these advantages would be lost—we have a system of Railroads traversing the State and reaching the most desirable points above mentioned. Her natural scenery is equal to that of any State of the Union.

We have stated facts, and from them what are our most reasonable deductions. Is not her course in accordance with her motto, "Forward?" In 1840 Wisconsin had 80,000 inhabitants; in 1850, 305,000; in 1855, 552,000. In population she has outstripped all the western States, no one having

increased tenfold in ten years. In five years she has nearly doubled, her population having increased 247,000, while Illinois, a growing and rapidly increasing State, has added but 30 per centum to her population.

The territory of Wisconsin is larger than either New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio or Indiana. The latter, by the last census, had a population of 1,000,000, the next before, 2,000,000, the second 3,000,000, the first, in round numbers, 4,000,000. Wisconsin has a richer soil than New York, and more acres susceptible of cultivation than New York or Pennsylvania. The south east counties of Wisconsin are the only settled portions of the State, whilst the north and northwest are comparatively a wilderness. Taking the population of New York as 4,000,000 for our data of calculation, and taking into account that she has a larger proportion of sterile land than Wisconsin, and that the city and environs may be regarded as national and dependant upon position, we may safely give the rural districts 3,200,000, and, moreover, were she as densely populated as Massachusetts, she would have 6,000,000; these being the data, and Wisconsin one fourth larger, would contain 7,500,000 with the same number to the square mile. Taking the growth of Ohio and Indiana as a data for Wisconsin increase, we can safely predict in five years 800,000 inhabitants, in ten years 1,100,000, in fifteen years, 1,500,000, in twenty-five years 3,000,000, in fifty years 5,000,000. These are subjects challenging the attention and interests of all desirous of seeking a home and State with special advantages.

The advantages presented in the preceding, invite every visitor to the State, and have induced greatly the improvements we have simply glanced at. The Chairman of the Board of Trade of the Chamber of Commerce of Cincinnati, visited this State last Summer. We know the writer, and no man better qualified by travel, reading and observation to give a correct opinion than he. The following extract of a letter written during a summer's tour, will exhibit his opinion of the present, and from it we may deduce future greatness of the State.

A correspondent of the *Cincinnati Gazette* of the 9th of August, 1855, says:

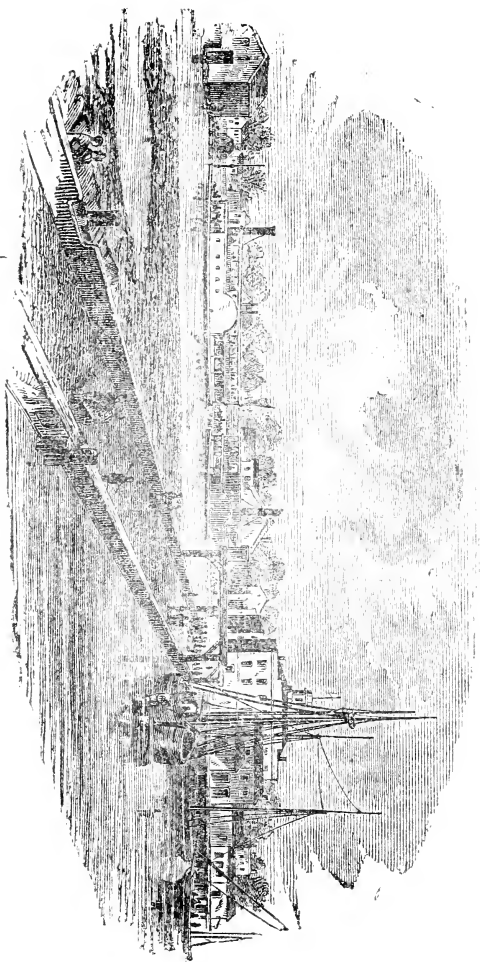
“One peculiarity, wherever I traveled in Wisconsin, struck me forcibly, viz: the apparent high degree of culture, cleanliness and thriftiness of the farms. There is not half so much to remind one of a new country as there is in Ohio and Indiana, and this is attributable chiefly to the fact that almost every quarter section, in its natural state, is ready for plowing and fencing without the labor of felling trees enough to burden the navy of the world; and partly to the fact that the class of settlers are off-shoots from the hardy and industrious sons of New England, or the farmers of Western New York and Northern Ohio. Fifty years labor in New England, or twenty years toil in Ohio, are not equal in their results to five industrious years in Wisconsin.”

Here is told in plain, simple and concise language, facts that could not be more forcibly or truthfully delineated in a column, and are the observations of a man whose opportunities and capabilities for judging are equal to any man in the Union.

The Legislature of our State have fixed the rate of interest by contract at 12 per cent, and have repealed all laws forfeiting the principal if interest beyond this sum be agreed on. Our laws now, whilst fixing the rate at 12 per cent. require a tender of the principal, before a suit can be brought to recover any excess, giving a freedom to the value of money, unknown in any other State in the Union. We doubt not this will bring the surplus capital of other States to ours, and will aid in developing our valuable resources.

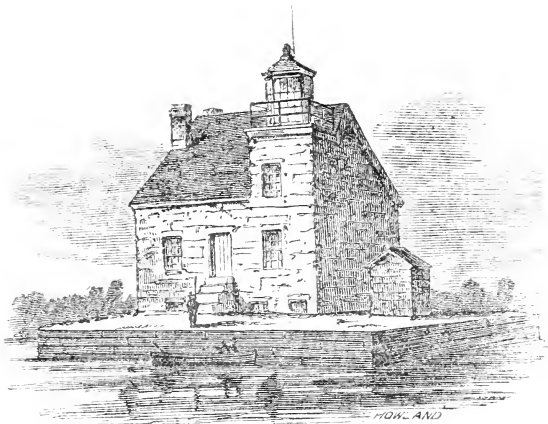
In the short space which has intervened between the first settlement in this State and the present time, changes little less than miraculous, have taken place; the widespread flower-garden, whose unbroken sod was trodden only by wild beasts and the wild men of the forest, is now clothed over with one hundred thousand cultivated fields, whose harvests feed more than half a million of civilized people upon the soil, and send annually, to the less fertile east, breadstuffs to sustain a million more. Semiaries of learning and temples of worship; populous cities filled with the merchandize, wealth, and splendor of the east. Every navigable water supplied with sail and steamboats, busily employed in transporting passengers and freight to and from the various large towns and new settlements springing up in the recent wilderness.

Long trains of cars driven upon the iron track, into almost every section of the State, are finger marks of Wisconsin progress for the last twenty years. All of these improvements are the necessary implements which will be used with renewed vigor to develop the immeasurable wealth of the State, and accelerate her progress and cut short the march to her high destiny, of "the greatest State in the Union." The present wealth of Wisconsin is not a foreign importation, but an extraction from her own soil. As a general rule the settlers in Wisconsin were *poor*, but industrious, men of large hearts and aspirations, unwilling to be cramped in narrow limits, or bound by mouldy customs, who had battled with adversity and misfortune in other climes, gained self reliance in their conflicts, until the stern determination of *I will conquer*, was engraved on every muscle of the man; they come to this new region, poor in pocket, but rich in hope, ready to endure the privations and subdue the difficulties of pioneer life, and are now the genuine aristocracy of the State, surrounded with the wealth their own hands have brought into existence.



FOX RIVER AND OSHKOSH.

From Daguerrotype by J. F. HARRISON.



LIGHT HOUSE, MENASHA.

From Daguerreotype by J. F. HARRISON.

FOX RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

"The Fox River of Wisconsin, rising in the northern part of Columbia County, runs south-easterly to Fort Winnebago, and making a turn round the Fort, flows in a north-easterly direction into Green Bay, an arm of Lake Michigan, and is navigable from Fort Winnebago to its mouth, a distance of one hundred and sixty miles, except at certain points below Lake Winnebago, where navigation is interrupted by several ledges of rock, over which the river falls an aggregate of 160 feet in a distance of twenty miles.

"The Wisconsin river, rising near the northern boundary of the State, flows south-westerly to the Mississippi, and is now navigable for about two hundred miles, being sixty miles above Fort Winnebago. At this Fort, the Fox and Wisconsin approach to within one and a half miles of each other

with a difference in level of only four feet, with a flat prairie between them. This proximity of two navigable streams running in opposite directions through the State, afforded, at an early period, a convenient transit from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi river, and attracted the attention of the Secretary of War, who, in 1838, strongly urged upon Congress to connect them by a canal, for the purpose of facilitating the transportation of troops and munitions of war destined for the western frontier of the United States. In pursuance of this recommendation, a grant of land was made in the year 1846, by Congress to the State of Wisconsin, to aid in the contemplated improvement and connection of these rivers by a canal, which grant was accepted by the State in 1847, and the work put in course of construction. But, as it appeared by the Report of the State officers in charge on the work of January 1, 1853, the improvement could not be completed from the avails of the grant of land without many years' delay, and a majority of the Legislature deeming it unconstitutional to issue State Bonds, from the sale of which to finish it, and yet acknowledging the great importance to the State of a speedy completion of the work, resolved to surrender the whole improvement, the balance of the grant of lands remaining unsold, hydraulic privileges, &c., to a company, on receiving good and sufficient guarantee that the work should be accomplished, and the parties interested as contractors or otherwise, secured from loss. A number of individuals, impressed with the vast importance of the work as a means of cheap transportation for the products and supplies of the richest agricultural, and mineral, and lumber portions of the State, and consequently as a source of immense revenue, entered into articles of association, and applied to the Legislature for an act of incorporation, in which they succeeded by obtaining an act, approved July 6th, 1853, granting to the company unlimited powers to accomplish the object in view, enabling them to purchase and sell real estate, build and carry on mills and factories, for which water is used as motive power; build boats, transport merchandise, produce, and passengers, and engage in any business which they may deem necessary in connection with the use and navigation of the two rivers to be improved.

"The design of the improvement is to enable boats to pass from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi. Beginning at the

Lake, Green Bay and Fox River afford unobstructed navigation for the largest class of Lake Steamers for eighty miles, to the town of Depere, six miles above the mouth of the river. At this point rapids are encountered, with a fall of some six feet; rapids again occur at the following points: At the Croche, Grand Kaukaulin, Little Chute, Cedars, Grand Chute, and Outlet of Winnebago Lake. These rapids were to be overcome by dams, locks, and short sections of canal, after which the navigation was unobstructed to Fort Winnebago, where two locks, and a canal two miles long, were necessary to complete the improvement."

This part of the work, connecting the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers is already finished, and has been in successful operation since 1852.

"The whole length of canal necessary to secure a steamboat communication from Green Bay to Lake Winnebago, is about five miles. It is 100 feet wide on the bottom, and 120 at the top, (two feet wider than the famous Welland Canal.) The locks are 40 feet wide by 160 long, and built in the most permanent manner, of solid stone masonry, and in a style that will not suffer in comparison with any similar work in the eastern states. It is calculated, that with the improved manner of working these locks, a steamer can pass each, in the short space of three minutes. This will afford a rapid transit for the vast amount of freight that must and will seek an outlet through this thoroughfare to an eastern market. The capacity of the river for all purpose of navigation is undoubted; at no season of the year can there be any failure of wature."—*Exhibit of Fox River Improvement.*

"Twelve miles above Oshkosh, westward, is the mouth of the Wolf River, a tributary of the Fox, and navigable for steamers for one hundred and fifty miles. Forty miles above the mouth of Wolf River is the town of Berlin; sixty miles further, Portage City, and town of Fort Winnebago; above which places, for sixty miles, and below for one hundred and thirty-five miles, the Wisconsin is now navigable for steamers.

Through these, a ready connection will be secured with the Mississippi and its tributaries, and it is confidently calculated that at no distant day, steam tugs, with between 200 and 500 tons burden in tow, each, from St. Peters river—from St. Paul, and other places in that direction, will land their bur-

dens at Green Bay, to be shipped to an eastern Market. The objection to be urged to this route, from so remote locality is, that it will take too long to make the transit. To this we have to reply, that it is estimated by those who know better than we, that this great distance can and will be overcome by just these kind of crafts, in from four to six days, and by passenger boats in much less time."—*Fountain City Herald*.

"The water-powers incidentally created by the construction of this improvement will eventually prove to be one of its most productive sources of revenue, and of themselves sufficient to yield a fair per centage on the total cost of the works. The nine dams and the six miles of canal along which it is only necessary to erect bulkheads to make the powers available, will afford water sufficient to drive a large number of mills and factories, the volume discharged through the Fox River being equal to a stream 200 yards in width, 2 feet in depth, with a velocity of eight miles per hour."—*Ec. of Fox River Improvement*.

This improvement will open about 1000 miles to steam navigation, between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River, including the navigable streams in the interior of northern Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota.

This stupendous work which is to be completed this present season (1856) in its tendency will do far more for the prosperity and advancement of the vast regions, opened to the advantages of connection with the Atlantic market, than any other improvement contemplated.

This noble enterprise is so nearly completed, June 1856, that steamers have commenced regular daily trips from Green Bay to Lake Winnebago, and up the Fox River. The *Aquila*, built at Pittsburg, has traversed the Ohio, Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, plies between Green Bay and Berlin. Some of the locks are yet in an imperfect state, and some of canals are yet to be improved; the completion of all the parts is steadily progressing, and it is confidently believed that when the work is completed, and the business of the country, with its competition, shall be fully developed, transportation from the ports along Winnebago Lake to Green Bay will not exceed seventy-five cents per ton, and as the Bay affords one of the safest and most commodious harbors in the world, and the only harbor on Lake Michigan, it must be a

desirable shipping place and attract much maritime business. The immense amount of available water-power on this route will undoubtedly attract the attention of capitalists and manufacturers, and as its advantages and intrinsic value are discovered and duly appreciated, Lowells and Manchesters will spring up between Lake Winnebago and Green Bay, the interests and growth of which will be identified with all the widespread, fertile country through which the line of water passes. Wisconsin has many beautiful and valuable rivers, but no one which can contribute more to the wealth and convenience of the State, than the Fox and its tributaries.

Along the western boundary of the State, sweeps the father of waters, the majestic Mississippi, bearing upon its broad bosom, steam boats, schooners, flat boats and every imaginable floating craft, laden with an overflowing tide of humanity and its appendages. In this State it receives the tribute of the St. Croix, which rises in the county of Douglas and runs in a southerly direction and forms a portion of the boundary line between Minnesota and Wisconsin: its mouth is at Port Douglas. The Chippewa river rises in the county of the same name, and runs southerly through the counties of Dunn and Buffalo to the Mississippi. The valley through which it passes is eminently adapted to agriculture. The lands are not entered and are almost an entire wilderness.

Buffalo river rises in the northeasterly part of Trempeleau county and runs in a westerly direction about thirty miles, thence southwesterly about twenty-five miles and empties into the Chippewa near its entrance into the Mississippi.

The Eagle river is a small stream that rises in the interior of Buffalo county and empties into the Mississippi at Fountain City.

Trempeleau river rises in the north part of the county of the same name, runs in a southerly direction, forming the western boundary of this county, a distance of about eighteen or twenty miles from its mouth.

Black river rises in the north part of Clark county, running a meandering course in a southerly direction through Clark and Jackson counties, and forms the northwestern boundary of La Crosse county.

La Crosse river rises in the south part of Jackson county, runs in a southwesterly direction through Monroe and La-

Crosse counties and empties into the Mississippi at Prairie La Crosse.

Raccoon river rises in the southwest part of Monroe county runs in a southwesterly direction through the northwest corner of Bad Ax county, into the Mississippi.

Bad Ax river rises in the interior of Bad Ax county, and empties into the Mississippi at Battle Field.

The Wisconsin river takes its rise in the extensive swamps in the north part of the State, and runs in a southerly direction through Marathon, Portage and Adams counties, thence southeasterly into the interior of Columbia county, thence southwesterly forming a boundary between Sauk, Richland and Crawford counties, on the south, and Dane, Iowa and Grant counties on the north emptying into the Mississippi a short distance below Prairie du Chien.

Grant river rises in Grant county, and flows in a meandering course to Potosi, where it empties into the Mississippi river.

Platte river rises in Grant, near Iowa county, and winds its way to the Mississippi, near the southern boundary of the State. The tributaries to the same mighty current which flows into Illinois before finding their common level, are the Pecatonica, Sugar and Rock river, the latter of which has one of its head-springs in Fond du Lac and another in Marquette county, which pass through Horicon Lake in the county of Dodge and then through Jefferson and Rock counties and leaves the State at Beloit after furnishing the valley through which it passes with much valuable water-power. The Milwaukee river rises in the town of Eden, Fond du Lac county, passes through Ozaukee and Washington counties to the city of Milwaukee, which stands upon its banks. The Sheboygan rises but a few miles from the head of the Milwaukee and pursues its winding course to Sheboygan where it empties into Lake Michigan. Manitowoc rises in the highlands in Calumet county and passes through the county of its own name to Lake Michigan at the village of Manitowoc. The Twin rivers rise one in Brown the other in Kewaunee county, and gradually incline toward each other till they meet and embrace each other in the bosom of the Lake at the village of Two Rivers, about six miles north of Manitowoc. The Fox river takes its rise in the county of Marquette, pursues a very winding course and receives tribute from num-

erous lakes and streams before arriving at Portage, where it is connected by a canal with the Wisconsin (the head of the Fox river Improvement) runs northeasterly and receives the Wolf river at Winneconne, thence through Lake Winnebago to Green Bay, forming, for several miles below the lake the best water-power in all the western States; if not the best in the world. The Wolf river rises in the great northwestern wilderness of the State passes through the immense pineries, furnishing a highway for their transit to Winneconne, where it surrenders itself to the Fox.

There are several small rivers which rise in the interior of the northern part of the State and pass into Green Bay, among which are the Oconto, Peshlege and Menomonee. The Wolf river has also many tributary streams, among which are the Embarrass, Little Wolf, Rat and Waupacea rivers. The streams which run north and west into Lake Superior are generally short and unimportant to the interests of this work.

During the season of navigation, steamboats daily traverse many thousands of miles upon the waters of Wisconsin, and yet the increase of population and commerce demand continual increase of the various crafts which ply upon the waters of every part of the State.

The State is now much better supplied with railroad communications, according to the age of its settlement than any other State in the Union, and active and efficient means are now being employed to supply the deficiencies in every section where they exist. If the same measure of prosperity which has marked the progress of Wisconsin enterprise for the last five years, should attend her energies for five years to come, the problem of her destiny would be solved in the certainty that her people possess the key to unlock those immense treasures of national wealth which constitute her the richest and most prosperous State upon the American continent.

[For much of the data in the preceding sketch, we acknowledge our indebtedness to an invaluable little work of S. Chapman, entitled the Wisconsin Hand Book. The Hand Book should be sowed broadcast over the eastern States, so that any person wishing information of Wisconsin could learn much of the real condition of any locality in an hour's time. This book is worth more than the generality of books which sell for six times its cost.]

WINNEBAGO COUNTY.

Readers whose minds have been somewhat educated in natural scenery, and possess an imagination tolerably active, may figure to themselves a district of country from twenty to twenty-four miles square, without a mountain, hill or distinguished eminence, generally level, but perpetually undulating like gentle swells upon the ocean; its surface presenting a luxurious growth of grass, shrubbery and herbage, variegated and ornamented with countless wild flowers of every form and every hue, intermingled with blossoming and fruit bearing shrubs and trees; with *here* a beautiful, but unbroken prairie; *there* a long glade of native hay-field, then a broad expanse of scattered oaks, like a time honored orchard giving ample space for cultivation, and along the banks of flowing streams and pure lakes a dense border of forest trees, of hickory, oak, sugar-maple and bass; the waters inhabited by myriads of large and fine flavored fish; then spread along the whole eastern boundary a clear and beautiful sheet of water, from six to ten miles wide, which at the northeast corner of the tract, with strong current, forces itself through two channels to unite in a broad basin below, thus forming an island of about seven or eight hundred acres, and furnishing the most admirable water-power along the various shores, sufficient to drive the machinery of a kingdom; then along the northern boundary of the tract set a thick growth of heavy forest trees as far as the eye can reach; draw from the northwest to the south-east corner, a noble river meandering diagonally across the tract; near the center bring in another flowing stream from the south-east, with graceful curvings gliding on to mingle its waters with the former, and unitedly supply the lake upon the eastern shore; people the landscape with the children of the forest in their native wildness; mark their wigwam villages; their cornfields, their bark canoes, their council-fires, and their war-dances, and there will be a truth-

ful map of Winnebago county as it was twenty years ago. Then wave the magic wand of civilization, art, industry, science and commerce; cover the broad fields with a growing or golden harvest; run pleasant roads, lined with farm buildings and elegant school houses in every direction; let villages and church spires spring up in almost every town along the shore. At the influx of the river a busy and populous young city filled with the merchandise of the world; mills and machinery driven by steam along the line of its still waters, and the strong currents driving numerous water-wheels; steam boats and smaller crafts in all directions daily traversing the lake and rivers, which serve also as the great thoroughfare for pine forests to pass and furnish supplies for an immense destitute region, and we have a daguerreotype of Winnebago county as it is in 1856.

But the transformation from its past to its present condition has not been accomplished by a magician or a wizard, while men slumbered and slept; neither is it the result of the rash investment of a millionaire at his ease in an extensive plan; but it is entirely the product of veritable human perseverance, nerve, in determined and ceaseless conflict with necessity, privation, and want, where persevering industry, shut himself and alone, has sheltered the homeless, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, cut roads, built bridges and steamboats, conquered poverty on every field, and given to hard labor its just and legitimate claim to wealth and aristocracy of position.

The County of Winnebago lies on the west side of Lake Winnebago, which separates it on the east from the county of Calumet; on the north lies the county of Outagamie and the eastern part of Waupacca; on the west is Waushara and part of Marquette; on the south is the county of Fond du Lac. The 44th deg. of north latitude passes through the county of Winnebago. The surface of this county is gently rolling and beautifully diversified with woodland, openings, prairie and native hayfields. The openings predominate; the timber-land lies principally along the border of the lake, and on the north side of the county; the prairie land is mostly near the middle and on the south side; small strips of hay marsh are found in nearly all parts of the county but mostly along the rivers; openings constitute the balance of the county. The Wolf river enters this county near the northwest corner in the town

of Orihula, passes through Lake Poygan to the town of Winneconne, near the center of the county, where it surrenders its waters and its name to the Upper Fox, which from the south enters the county near the south east corner of the town of Rushford and passes diagonally across Omro to meet and unite with its northern sister, then passing through the expansion of Lake Butte des Morts, silently glides on to pour its majestic current into Lake Winnebago at Oshkosh.

These streams being navigable for steam boats through the county and far into the country toward their respective sources, together with the Lake on the eastern side, afford facilities for travel in all directions, unequalled by any county in the State. The soil varies in the various localities, embracing the deep black vegetable mould, marly loam, clay, sandy loam and in a few places sand prevails. The subsoil of the whole county possesses that strong and active fertility which marks the decomposition of lime-rock, and from any depth when thrown to the surface and exposed to atmospheric action, readily supplies the growth of the various kinds of grain, grasses, and fruit. This county is generally well watered, although the waters hold lime in solution sufficient to make it what is termed "hard." Artesian wells are easily obtained, in some places by boring thirty or forty feet, a beautiful and never-failing stream of pure water gushes up from the great fountain beneath. The inhabitants of this county possess as great a share of health and vigor as can be found in any part of the United States. Until within less than a score of years this county was the abode of various tribes and parts of tribes of Indians. Here the Winnebagoes and Menomonees had their cornfields and council fires, their wigwams and wardances, their pipes of peace and their pow-wows.

As everything in relation to these interesting but fast vanishing people, is of importance to the enquiring mind, we will relate some circumstances which transpired among them within the knowledge, and to some extent under the immediate observation of the narrators, whose opportunities have afforded them intimate knowledge of their habits, manners and customs, ever since the first settlers of white people came among them, and who have politely furnished us with the facts.

Winnebago Co. was, before the advent of the whites, occupied by bands of Indians belonging to various tribes. The site of the present City of Oshkosh, was the home of a band of Winnebagoes under Pe-e-shen, whose planting ground was at Algoma. A large band of the same tribe numbering some three hundred lodges, lived at Black Wolf, which town takes its name from their Chief. Still another band of the same tribe lodged at Neenah. The Menomonees had large villages at Butte des Morts, Winneconne and at Poygan. They claimed and held all the land hereabout, and the Winnebagoes only lived here by permission. For this privilege, and as satisfaction for the lives of two young Menomonees whom they had delivered in a treacherous manner to the Sacs, they paid an annual tribute to the Menomonees, consisting of specified quantities of Corn, Potatoes and Dried Pumpkin. An arrangement very consonant to the feelings of the Menomonees—that tribe having no love for work only in the abstract. After receiving this tribute many years, the Menomonees remitted it at the instance of the Traders, who wished the Winnebagoes to spend more of their time in hunting.

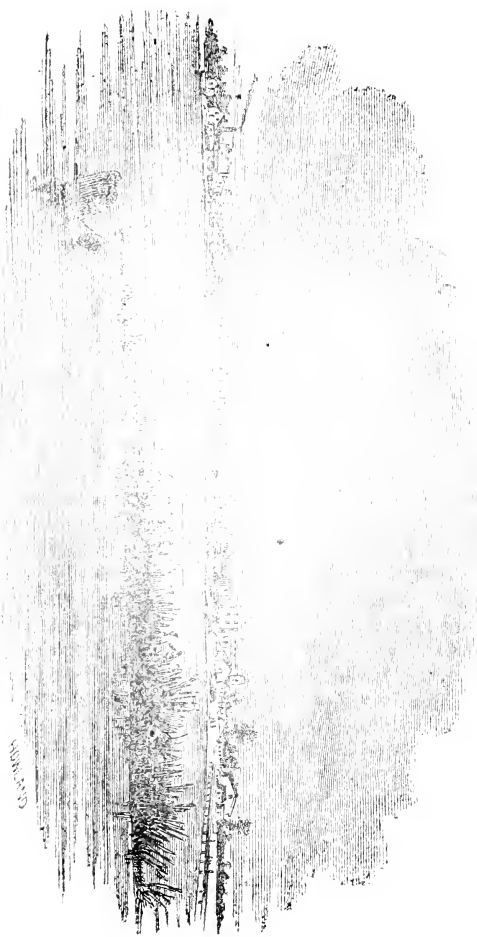
Many of the most striking facts in the history of these tribes have their locality in this County—many of their most eminent traditional characters lived here. The massacre of the Sacs and Foxes, at Winneconne and Butte des Morts, and the battle of Little Butte des Morts below Neenah, are conspicuous among the former; and among the latter, Black Wolf, head Civil and War Chief of all the Winnebagoes; Pe-e-shen, another Chief of the same tribe; and Grisly-Bear, Mow-wah-sah and Pow-waga-nieulived among the Menomonees the last being the greatest warrior they have had in recent times. His memory is kept green among his successors by many brave deeds that go far to make up quite a respectable aggregate of Tribal glory. Tradition describes him as the incarnation of all the fighting virtues, from those of Napoleon to those of Tom Hyer inclusive. He never considered scalps of women and children an honorable ornament, and it is well known that when, during the war of 1812, his party surprised a schooner in Mackinaw, he jumped down into the cabin, and with his own hatchet defended the crew from his own warriors until he saved all their lives. He was

the Indian as romancers love to paint him: large, handsome, brave and generous; a character now through the baleful influences and vices of the white man, fast becoming traditional; and one that we cannot help inferring from living examples, borrows a good deal of its enchantment from distance. Especially when dressed for war, with his head dress of war-eagle's feathers, did he look formidable; and it is related that when thus bedecked, few could withstand his gaze. The following anecdote related of him and Black Wolf, shows their respective traits in pretty good relief.

Kish-ke-ne-kat or Cut-finger, head war chief of the Pottawottamies of Chicago, was a great brave, and, like some successful white braves, somewhat of a bully. Among other of his habits was an ugly one, of insulting the greatest brave of any tribe he might be visiting, and such was the awing effect of his reputation that none had as yet resented it. As was his wont he sent one of his young men to Black Wolf to inform him of a visit he intended to pay that Chief, moved thereto, by Black Wolf's great reputation as a brave. Black Wolf knowing Cut-finger's habits, thought it best to get his Menomonee friend, Pow-wa-ga-n'eu, to assist in dispensing his hospitalities to the Pottawottamie. Therein he shewed his great wisdom. The Illinois Chief made his appearance at Black-Wolf's village with three hundred warriors, and not being expected there did not find the Chief; so according to custom he started after him to Algoma, whither he had gone to the corn-husking, on the planting ground of his friend Pe-e-shen. Black Wolf, by this time apprised of their coming, assembled his, and the Menomonee braves to receive them. On their arrival they sat down on a pleasant spot within hailing distance of their hosts. A young Winnebago who could speak the Pottawottamie tongue, presented the pipe to the great Chief, with the usual compliments. While the pipe was going round, Cut-finger enquired which was Black Wolf? The interpreter pointed him out. "Who is that who seems to be as great as he, sitting by his side?" "That's Pow-wa-ga-nieu the great Menomonee." Cut-finger's eyes snapped with delight at the prospect of humbling the great warrior before his young men. Bidding the Winnebago to tell Black-wolf that he would shake his hand; before the young men arose he started and

PLATE I. A. T. 1856

From Dutton's book by J. F. HARRISON.



W. H. HARRISON

paid the usual courtesies to that chief. After these preliminaries were settled on both sides, Cut-finger asked "who is this who occupies a place of so much honor? he must be a great Indian." "This is the bravest Menomonee, Pow-wa-ga-nieu." "Ah, is that the great Pow-wa-go-nieu, who fills the songs of the nations? let me look at him." He walked all round the chief, examining him with the critical air of a horse jockey. Pow-wa-ga-nieu, all this time keeping profound silence, having a good idea what it was going to amount to. "Well," at last broke forth Cut-finger, "you are a fine Indian, a great Indian, a strong Indian, but you don't look like a brave Indian. I have seen many braver looking Indians than you in my travels—I am a great traveler—I think you must have got a great deal of your reputation from your size. You don't look brave—you look sleepy. You have no tongue, you don't speak." Then telling the young Menomonees that he was going to satisfy himself as to the courage of their chief, he took hold of the bunch of hair that the old warrior always kept on his crown for the convenience of any Sac or Fox who might find it necessary to scalp him, and gave him a good shaking, saying all the time, "You are sleepy, you have no tongue;" and dealing a plentiful supply of aboriginal banter. Pow-wa-ga-nieu, aided by his great strength and a neck that could withstand any thing but rum, sustained but little damage from this and submitted with Indian calmness, until his tormenter had got through. After satisfying himself, Cut-finger announced to Black-Wolf that he would go and sit among his warriors until Black-Wolf gave the word to rise.

Pow-wa-ga-nieu immediately set himself about fixing the flint of his Pottawottamie friend. He opened his sack and drew forth his cap of war-eagle feathers—itsself equal to a small band of Sacs and Foxes—put it on his head and picked up his lance and club. His young men feared an unpleasant result, but none dared to speak except his brother, who admonished him to "do nothing rash." One glance of Pow-wa-ga-nieu's eye and an emphatic "I'm mad now!" sent that respectable Menomonee to his seat, excusing himself by saying that Pow-wa-ga-nieu "knew what a fool he always made of himself when he got a-going." Stretching himself up to his full height, he stalked toward the Pottawottamies in a style that excited the universal admiration of his friends, especially old

Black-Wolf, who not only admired his friend, but also his own tact in shifting this particular scrape on to that friend's shoulders.

"My friends," said the old brave to the Pottawottamies, "I am glad to see you here; you look brave—you are brave; many of you I have met on the war-path, and know you are brave; some of your youngest I do not know, it being many years since I went to war; but they look like warriors. My friends, I am glad to see you look so well. I have heard much of your chief, but I don't think him very brave; I think him a coward. He looks sleepy, and I am going to see if he is worthy to lead such braves as you." Whereupon throwing his weapons on the ground, he seized the Pottawottamie chief by the hair, which he wore very long as if in prophetic anticipation of some such retribution as this. He shook him with all his might, and continued to shake until his young men remonstrated, saying they were satisfied. He stopped without relinquishing his hold, turned round his head, looked his followers down into silence, and shook again with the vim of a man whose whole heart was in the performance of an evident and pious duty. The life was nearly out of Kish-ke-ne-kat, but the brave Menomonee bore that individual's sufferings with the same fortitude that he had borne his own. Satisfied at last, he raised his enemy up by the hair and threw him from him; at the same time he picked up his club and lance and waited to see "what he was going to do about it." Cut-finger raised himself on his elbow and rubbed his head, not daring to look up while the Menomonee invited him to look up and see a man if he was one himself, "to come and decide this matter like men," which being unattended to, he went back to his seat at the right hand of Black-Wolf, who had been all this time smoking with the utmost indifference, as indeed it was no affair of his.

Kish-ke-ne-kat continued to recline on his arm. Pow-wa-ga-nieu eyeing him all the time, and when the Pottawottamie would steal a glance at the great war cap, the eye under it would make him turn again, at the same time his ears were assailed with, "why don't you look up?" "what are you afraid of?" "come and talk to me," and such taunts. Cut-finger saw that his position among his young men was getting to be rather delicate, and the last invitation, as a means of reconcil-

ing all parties, met his view; so rising and laying his hand on his sore head, he said: "My friends—there is no dodging the fact that Pow-wa-ga-nieu is a brave Indian, a very brave Indian, braver than I, and I'll go and tell him so." Gathering himself up he walked over to the two Chief's and told Pow-wa-ga-nieu that he had come over to shake him by the hand. "You are a great chief, I have shook many chief's: none have resented till now; if you had submitted you would have been disgraced in the eyes of my young men; now they will honor. I am a great traveler, I am going to all the tribes of the south, I will tell those who have spoken well of you how you have used me, they will believe me, for I have pulled all of their heads, and as you have pulled mine, you are as great as if you had pulled theirs also; let us shake hands and be friends." Pow-wa-ga-nieu, who was a good fellow at bottom, reciprocated the good feelings of the now friendly chief, and a lasting friendship sprung up between them and showed itself in the interchange of presents every year, as long as they both lived.

The war-eagle cap which contributed so much toward this victory is now in the hands of Pow-wa-ga-nieu's son, and can be seen any time by those who doubt the truth of the foregoing.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first inhabitants of Winnebago County other than Indians, were Augustine Grignon, one of the French settlers of Green Bay, an Englishman by the name of Powell, who located there for the purpose of traffic with the Indians, James Knaggs, a half-breed, who kept a ferry just above the present site of Algoma, where the trail leading from Fort Winnebago to Green Bay crossed the river. Grignon located at Butte des Morts, and Powell a little lower down the river. About the same time, a white man by the name of Archibald Caldwell settled among the Indians near the rapids, the present site of Neenah. In 1835, the U. S. government established an agency for the benefit of the Menomonee Indians, at Neenah, in the benevolent enterprise of education in agriculture, mechanics, morals, and science, and the general principles of civilization. William Dickinson was the contractor to prepare the way for the perfection of this grand enterprise, by the improvement of the water-power, the erection of a saw and grist-mill, blacksmith shop, farm houses, and school house. This contract was entered into as early as 1831 or 1832. The work was commenced by Mr. Dickinson, but before its completion, the business was transferred by a subsequent contract to David Whitney.

The scheme embraced the instruction of the Indians by theory and practice. Competent and practical instructors were employed. Two brothers, of the name of Gregory, the one an Episcopal Clergyman, the other an experienced teacher, were at the head of the department of science, morals, and religion. Religious meetings were regularly held on the Sabbath. Clark Dickinson, Nathaniel Perry, Robert Irwin, Gen. Ruggles, and a Mr. Baird, father of Hon. H. Baird of Green Bay, were employed as farmers. Col. David Johnson was miller, Jourdan and Hunter were the blacksmiths. The contractors gave employment in 1835 to about twenty-five or thirty laborers in the various departments of the enterprise. This arrangement continued about two years, during which the Indians who did not come into the arrangement for civil-



WEBSTER STANLEY.

From Daguerreotype by J. F. HARRISON.

ization were numerous about Neenah, living in their wild manner. The small-pox made its appearance among them and swept off about one-third of their number. Col. Boyce, of Green Bay, being Indian Agent, sent to their relief a surgeon of the U. S. troops, to give them the benefit of vaccination. But Mr. A. Caldwell, a resident and trader at Neenah, benevolently took charge of the sufferers, spending much of his time in nursing and nourishing the sick, contributed greatly to alleviate their sufferings at the hazard of his own life; he took the disease, suffered severely and barely escaped the fate of the unfortunate victims.

For some reason the government abandoned the enterprise after about two years unsuccessful effort.

In July, 1836, Webster Stanley, who had been at work for the contractor on mills at Neenah, removed to the south side of Fox River, opposite Knagg's ferry just above where Algoma bridge now crosses the river. He took the ferry of Knaggs, who was a half-breed, and commenced keeping it himself.—His object was to make a permanent settlement by locating land. In August he was joined by Chester Gallup. The Indians at that time owned on the opposite side of the river, where Oshkosh now stands. Stanley had brought with him provisions and means for living for at least a year. About the month of August Gov'r. Dodge and others following the Indian trail on their way to Cedar Rapids, arrived at the ferry. They were on their way to treat with the Menomonees for the purchase of the lands on the north side of the river. On their return they informed Mr. Stanley that they had succeeded in making the treaty by which the lands had become the property of the United States. Messrs. Stanley & Gallup profited by this early information, and immediately made claims on the land from where Ferry street now runs down on the north side of the river to the Lake.

Gallups farm consisted of about one hundred and seventy acres, embracing the beautiful elevation on the point between the lake and the river on the north side. Stanley took from Gallup's west line up the river to Ferry street, about one hundred and seventeen acres. They proceeded to erect a dwelling, for which purpose Stanley took down his board shanty at the ferry and removed it to his claim, where the two families occupied it in common until about the first of November, when

Mr. Gallup removed into his own log house. By Christmas, Mr. Stanley had built a log house and had so far completed its apartments, that he took possession with his family, and continued to occupy the same for his dwelling until 1846. Mr. Stanley was a man of enterprise, was one of the founders of business in Oshkosh. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in September, 1798. Moved with his father to Broome County, N. Y., in 1801, thence to Ogden, fourteen miles west of Rochester, thence to Medina county, Ohio. In October, 1834, he came to Green Bay. In September, 1835, he removed to the rapids and worked on the shingle machine for Mr. Dickinson, the contractor. July, 1836, started in a boat for Winnebago county. He now resides on the south side of the river, near the bridge; his strength is not departed nor his vigor abated. In the spring of 1838, Mr. George Wright located with his family on a farm now in the city of Oshkosh, west of Ferry Street, on the north side of the river. The same year David and Thomas Evans came to this place and located. The first marriage celebrated in this county was that of Joseph Jackson, Esq., late Mayor of the city of Oshkosh, to Miss Emeline Wright, daughter of George Wright, Esq. The marriage was announced in a Green Bay paper as having taken place at "ATHENS," the name which many wished to have applied to this new settlement. The ceremony was performed at the house of Chester Gallup, by Rev. S. Peet, of Green Bay, and attended by nearly every citizen in the county, on the 8th of March, 1838. In the Spring of 1839 Mr. George Wright was appointed Justice of the Peace by Governor Dodge; it was the first appointment of a magistrate in this county. The first court was held on the 12th of November 1839.

James Knaggs, vs. Francis Le Roy.—George Wright, Esq., Justice of the Peace. Capt. Wm. Powell appeared as attorney for the defendant Mr. Knaggs, in person. The necessary refreshments were kept in a jug behind a tree; the witness fees were deposited in the same apartment. Capt. Powell was triumphant in his defence; the laurels whereof are in full bloom upon his brow up to the present hour. Another very exciting scene soon occurred; it became necessary that the new settlement, which had a local habitation, should also have a name for Post Office. A general meeting was notified, and

attended, at the house of George Wright, Esq., by English, French and half-breeds. Mr. David Evans furnished a box of cigars, the jug was in its accustomed place behind the tree; much electioneering from the diversity of opinions with regard to the most appropriate name. Athens, Fairview, Osceola, Oshkosh and Stanford were the favorite names of different parties. Robert Grignon was in favor of Oshkosh; his influence with the half-breeds turned the scale and settled the name, and the last drink was in honor of Oshkosh. At this time Chester Ford had become a resident; also W. A. Boyd, George F. Wright, C. J. Coon, C. Dickinson, C. R. Luce, the Brooks family, Simon Quartermass, Ira Aiken, W. C. Isbel, Joseph Schooley and others. In 1840 the population of Winnebago county was 135. In the same year a Post Office was established and John P. Gallup appointed P. M. The mail was carried from Fond du Lac by Oshkosh to Bridgeport. Chester Ford carried the mail once a week. On one occasion he made the trip with rather a light mail, having only one letter and a newspaper. In 1840, January 6th, an act approved for the organization of Winnebago county. By acts of Legislature approved 18th February 1842, the counties of Calumet and Winnebago were organized from and after the first of March, 1842, for all purposes of county government, and attached to Brown county for judicial purposes, and the first election to be held at Manchester, in Calumet county. The election of Winnebago county without authority of law, was held at the house of Webster Stanley, and all the necessary business transacted, and was subsequently legalized by the legislature.

By an act of the legislature in 1843, future elections and town meetings for the town of Winnebago, (which then comprised the whole county,) were to be held at the house of Webster Stanley, who had been previously authorized by the legislature to keep a ferry until otherwise ordered by the vote of the electors. In September 1844, an election was held for the election of county officers, and for or against a State Government. The whole number of votes cast was 23, of which W. C. Isbel received, for Register of Deeds, 13 votes and Clark Dickinson received eight votes.

There were four votes for a State Government and nineteen votes against it. George F. Wright was elected Clerk of the

Board of Supervisors, receiving eighteen votes without opposition. W. W. Wright County Treasurer, receiving eighteen votes, no opposition. Ira F. Aiken was elected Coroner, receiving fifteen votes; scattering two. Samuel L. Brooks was elected District Surveyor receiving nineteen votes with no opposition.

The first session of the Board of Supervisors was held at the house of Webster Stanley, May 1st, 1843, composed of W. C. Isbel and Chester Ford, they being a quorum, appointed G. F. Wright their Clerk, approved the bond of W. W. Wright, with C. J. Coon and Edward E. Brenan as sureties for the office of County Treasurer, and adjourned to May 6th, when the same members again met and voted a tax of fifty dollars for county purposes, and adopted a county seal, the device was an eagle holding a serpent in its claws. The seal itself is now in the Clerk's office, being a penny coin issued in 1837 by Doctor Feuchtwaugers, of New York, a composition about the size of a dime. Adjourned sine die.

May 19th a special session of the Board was held, Isbel and Ford in attendance, when the following resolution passed unanimously.

Resolved, That the Register of Deeds be, and he is hereby required to record all land conveyances presented to him for that purpose entire. Adjourned. G. F. WRIGHT, Clerk.

At the annual meeting of the Board, September 14th 1843, W. C. Isbel, C. Ford and L. B. Porlier voted to raise a tax of ten mills on the dollar.

Allowed the accounts of W. C. Isbel,.....	\$8 00
“ “ C. Ford,.....	8 00
“ “ L. B. Porlier,.....	2 00
“ “ G. F. Wright,.....	11 25
“ “ C. Dickinson,.....	3 75
“ “ H. A. Gallup,.....	2 25
“ “ C. J. Coon,.....	1 50

Adjourned.

The Treasurer's Report for 14 44, exhibits receipts to the amount of \$49 76. The expenditures, 49 76.

This year the board raised a tax for county purposes of one hundred and twenty-five dollars.

In 1845 the Legislature passed an act providing for the location of a county seat for Winnebago county, Three com-

missioners were to be elected to make the location. In April 1845 the election was held at the house of Webster Stanley, and Clark Dickinson and Robert Grignon were elected, the highest vote being 39, there were 20 votes cast for J. Jackson and 20 votes for Harrison Reed. A subsequent election was held to decide between the candidates at which H. Reed received 31 votes and was elected.

The commissioners reported that they had located the seat of justice on Section 24, Town 19, Range 16, now Butte des Morts. The people being dissatisfied with the location, by act of Legislature, the seat of justice was finally settled and still remains at what is now the city of Oshkosh.

An act approved February 8th, 1847, provided for the organization of Winnebago county for judicial purposes to form a part of the third judicial district of Wisconsin, also establishing the county seat at its present location.

N. P. Tuttle was the first Sheriff elected in the county of Winnebago, September 6th 1847. In November 1848, M. N. Moulthrop was elected to the same office, the duties of which he discharged until 1850, when he was succeeded by A. B. Cooley. In 1852 A. F. David held the office until succeeded in 1854 by John P. Gallup, the present incumbent.

January 12th 1848, A. G. Miller, Judge of the Third Judicial District, appointed Edward Eastman Clerk of the Court. October 16th, 1848, Chief Justice Stowe appointed Dudley C. Blodgett to that office. In November, 1848, he was succeeded by E. R. Baldwin, elected by the votes of the people of the several towns in the county. In 1850 Mr. Baldwin was re-elected to the office, and again in 1852. In 1854 he was succeeded by the election of C. A. Weisbrod the present incumbent.

George F. Wright who was elected to the office of Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in 1843, continued to discharge its duties until 1848, when he was succeeded by Silas W. White. In 1849 Wm. Dennison was elected to the office, he was succeeded in 1850 by E. A. Rowley. In 1852, J. H. Osborn was elected, and re-elected in 1854, and is still discharging the duties of that office.

Clark Dickinson, who was elected Register of Deeds in 1843, was succeeded in 1844 by W. C. Isbel. In 1846 S. L. Brooks was elected to the office. In 1847, H. D. Dickinson

was elected, but died previous to the expiration of the term of office, and his brother Clark Dickinson was appointed to fill the vacancy. In 1848 at the general election Mr. Dickinson was again elected to the office, re-elected in 1850; was succeeded in 1852 by E. A. Rowley, who was re-elected in 1854 and still holds the office.

The office of County Treasurer has been held as follows: From 1843 to 1847 by W. W. Wright. Edward West was elected in the Fall of '47. At the general election in 1848 F. F. Hamilton was elected for two years. In 1850 Wm. P. McAllister. Jonathan Daugherty was elected in 1852, re-elected in 1854, died in March 1856; and Barna Haskell appointed to fill the office, and is the present incumbent.

The first establishment of a Post Office in this county was in 1840, John P. Gallup Post Master. He was succeeded by his brother Henry A. Gallup. In 1846 Mr. Edward Eastman was appointed to the office; in 1849 Mr. Eastman resigned and G. A. Arnold appointed; soon succeeded by A. A. Austin, and in 1853, Mr. E. Eastman, the present incumbent was again appointed to the office.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The subject of organizing a County Agricultural Society, although it had been previously talked about, was not acted upon until the first day of March 1855, when a public meeting was called at the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. C. C. Church chosen Chairman and G. P. Vining Secretary. One person was appointed in each Town and Ward of the county to procure the names of persons who would become members, and Armine Pickett, Jon. Daugherty and J. H. Osborn were appointed a Committee to prepare a Constitution and By-Laws for this Society.

The next meeting was held April 11th, 1855. A constitution was adopted, and regular officers elected. A meeting was again called July 11th 1855, when the subject of holding a fair that year was discussed at some length, and though success appeared doubtful, yet it was finally determined that a fair should be held, and accordingly the fair was announced to be held on the 10th and 11th of October, on the public square in Oshkosh. The Board of Control determined to

offer premiums to the amount of one hundred dollars. For a first attempt the fair proved successful, beyond the expectations of the friends of the enterprise. An address was delivered by Prof. E. Daniels, to a very large audience. Some fine stock was exhibited and the weather proving to be fine, a very large concourse from the country assembled on the second day of the fair. The result was such as to encourage the hope that the fair of 1856 will prove that the people of the county are alive to the benefits of the society and behind those of no other in the State in advancing agricultural interests.

At the annual meeting of the society a new set of officers were elected, who have announced the fair of 1856 to be held on the 24th, 25th, and 26th of September at the city of Oshkosh.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The Winnebago County Educational Association was organized at Omro, in February 1856. Its object was a permanent association of the friends of public education, under whose auspices, the general interests of education should be promoted by holding "Teachers' Institutes" periodically, for the interchange of the views of the friends of education, and thereby elevate the standard of qualifications of Teachers.

The first session of the Teacher's Institute of this county was held at Oshkosh during the third week in April, 1856. Practical instruction was given each day in the various branches taught in common schools, and in the approved methods of teaching. A portion of the time was appropriated to the discussion of subjects which its members deemed important to the promotion of education. The evenings were mostly occupied by public addresses.

Similar associations and institutes in other counties have done much for the elevation of the standard of common school education. None of them have commenced under more favorable auspices, than the one established in Winnebago County, which now promises much good to her common schools.

THE PRESS.

On the ninth day of February, 1849, Messrs. Densmore & Cooley issued the first number of the *Oshkosh True Democrat*. It was a small sheet, but was conducted with an energy and ability that soon made what was at first supposed to be an unprofitable venture, a decided success. Mr. Densmore, who was the editor, and through whose exertions alone the paper was successful, at the end of the first volume, sold his interest to his partner, and went to Milwaukee. After an absence of three months he returned, bought the whole concern back and continued its publication until the spring of 1853, when he sold out and left the county for a more extended field of action. Mr. D. was a man of great energy, untiring industry, and one of the ablest newspaper writers in the State. His successor, Mr. Jonathan Daugherty, continued to conduct the paper until the Fall of 1855. He was a man of more than average ability, a pleasant writer, and possessed the confidence of all his cotemporaries of all parties. The growth of the city of Oshkosh has been to a great extent reflected in the growth of the *Democrat*, which, from a small, poorly printed sheet, is now as large, well printed, and successful a paper as any of the country press.

The *Winnebago Telegraph* was started in the Fall of 1849 by Dr. B. S. Henning, who issued a few numbers and sold the concern to Morley & Edwards. Mr. Edwards continued the publication of the *Telegraph* about two years, when he removed his materials to Appleton; but before he had got ready to issue a paper a fire destroyed his office and all its contents.

The *Oshkosh Delegate* was started August 16, 1850, by Geo. M. Shipper. He issued a few numbers, but being a dissipated character, failed to sustain it. A committee of gentlemen who had interested themselves in starting the *Delegate* then took charge of the office; but after a few weeks made arrangements with J. D. Hyman, Esq., a young man of fine abilities, who, in connection with Hiram Morley, published the *Oshkosh Republican*. Under the charge of these gentlemen the paper was sustained for a few months, but was finally suspended, and the materials moved to Fond du Lac.

The *Fox River Courier* was started by J. H. McAvoy, about the first of June, 1852. Mr. M. afterwards sold the Courier to Jeremiah Crowley, at present editor of the *Menasha Advocate*. The Courier continued under the control of Mr. C. until August, 1853, when Messrs. Read & Nevitt bought the establishment. Under the management of these gentlemen the paper continues; and has been as profitable a concern as any of the country papers in the State. On the 10th of February, 1854, the proprietors of the Courier started a Daily, which still continues to make its regular visits; showing that the city, though but ten years old, possesses vitality enough to sustain its papers creditably.

About the time the Courier was started, Messrs. Kohlmann issued the first number of a German paper called the *Anzeiger des Nordwestens*. They published the paper a few months and sold to Mr. Joachimi, who, not succeeding very well moved the materials to Sauk City where they now are in use.

The *Phoenix aus Nordwestens*, a German paper by Gustav Grahl, was started in the Summer of 1854, and is still published by the same gentleman.

The *Menasha Advocate* was started by Mr. J. Crowley about the first of November, 1853, and has remained under the charge of this gentlemen until the present time.

The *Conservator*, by Harrison Reed, Esq., and the *Bulletin*, by W. H. Mitchel, both made their first appearance May 16, in the village of Neenah.

A L G O M A .

Algoma is bounded north and north east by Lake Butte des Morts and Fox River; east by Oshkosh and Nekimi; west by Omro.

Algoma was originally a part of the old town of Brighton, re-organized by the Legislature in 1847; the first town meeting being ordered to be held at the house of John Smith. In 1849, attached T. 18. R. 16 south of the river, to the town of Winnebago, and directed the first town meeting to be held at Oshkosh; but the County Board of Supervisors meeting in February, 1850, E. L. Buttrick, the chairman for Brighton belonging to the village of Algoma, procured the passage of an order from the Board, setting off all of T. 18, R. 16, south of river, and west of Sec. 24, 25, and 26, into a separate town to be called after the village name, since which time the town has retained those boundaries with the exception of such part as has been absorbed by the city of Oshkosh. The first permanent settlers of the old town were Chester Ford and Wm. A. Boyd; they were followed by Milan Ford and J. H. Osborn, who each erected a log house in the Spring of 1846. The same Spring came also Jedediah Bottsford, John Smith, E. S. Durfee, Noah and Clark Miles, Elihu Hall, Doctor James Whipple, and others, many of whom looked out their farms and went back after their families. The town was rapidly settled, as its agricultural advantages were equal to any in the county; while its position in regard to the river and lake enhanced its value.

No town in the county contains less waste land and none is better watered with springs. The town was mostly burr-oak openings with here and there a small prairie or natural meadow, while in Sec. 28 and 29 was a large grove of forest timber. The village of Algoma (now included in the fifth ward of the city of Oshkosh) was started in the Summer of 1846 by C. J. Coon, Thomas C. Baker, James Whittemore, D. W. Forman, Wm. Daggett and others. A store was started and well supplied with goods by Mr. Baker; an excellent

saw mill was started by Messrs. Forman & Daggett, and a Hotel erected by Mr. Coon. The location being at the old crossing of the trail from Fort Winnebago to Green Bay, it at first bid fair to become the main point on the river, but with poor management or position, Oshkosh finally took the lead and at length absorbed its early rival. Farms can be bought in the town of Algoma, from fifteen to fifty dollars per acre, according to the character and amount of improvements. In this town in 1855 there were five schools, 316 scholars. Population 850.

BLACK - WOLF.

This town lies in the south-east corner of the county, is a fractional township of land, more than half being covered by the waters of Lake Winnebago; principally timber land or heavy openings; the soil is excellent.

It was also, originally a part of Brighton. After Algoma was set off, the name Brighton was changed to Nekimi, after the Post Office. In 1850 the Board of Supervisors for the county ordered that all of Township 17, Range 17, and Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25 and 36, T. 17, R. 16 should be taken from Nekimi and called Black Wolf, and the town lines have remained unchanged since. The first settlers of the town were Clark Dickinson, C. R. Luce, Ira Aiken, the Armstrong's, Charles W. Gay and T. and H. Hicks. Mr. Dickinson was one of the first permanent settlers of the county. He moved on his farm in the Spring of 1841; he had just completed a good log house, and got his family and furniture moved into it when he had the misfortune to lose his house and nearly all his furniture by fire. The town takes its name from one of the beautiful points which project into the lake—said to have been the favorite camping ground of an Indian Chief of that name. Some of these points on the lake shore are so very beautiful as to strike a stranger with admiration. They are generally openings and have been favorite camping spots of the Indians; they contain a beautiful coat of grass or white clover, which seems to be natural to the soil. The "Lake shore road" to Fond du Lac, traverses the town from north to south. The town has a Post Office named after itself, near which is a saw mill and a landing for steamboats.

With the exception of the north end and along the lake shore the town is covered with a fine forest. The inhabitants now are mostly Swiss and German. Farms can be bought from five to thirty dollars per acre, according to the location and improvements. In 1855, there were five schools, and 144 scholars. Population 552.

C L A Y T O N .

Bounded north by Outagamie county, east by Neenah and Menasha, south by Vinland and west by Winchester; is six miles square. The northern part of the town is heavily timbered with oak, bass, mople, elm and hickory, affording many excellent sugar groves. The soil is nearly uniform; a deep loam with a small mixture of sand, and subsoil of marly clay. The southern part of the town has less timber, being principally oak openings, beautifully interspersed with rich native hay marshes, where a deep black vegetable mould gives a luxurious growth to an excellent quality of wild hay, upon which thousands of cattle may fatten, through the Summer, and still a sufficient quantity remain for the scythe, for their winter's supply. These marshes may be easily drained, when they would be capable of cultivation for any of the grains. yet they are especially adapted to the growth of grass, and in their present condition, timothy and red-top are gaining of the wild grass whenever the seed is introduced to the soil. For agricultural purposes, Clayton is one of the first class townships, producing all the grains, grasses, roots, &c., usually cultivated in this latitude, is well adapted to the growth of apples, pears, cherries, plums, and the various fruit bearing shrubs and trees, and has a good supply of timber for fences, buildings and fuel. Rat river runs through the northwesterly part of this town, several small streams in other parts, but running streams are not as frequent as would be desirable. Good water is abundant at moderate depths, and there is generally stone enough on almost any farm to wall up wells, cellars, &c. There was no mark of culture or civilization here until July, 1846, when D. C. Darrow and William Berry moved their families on to the farms where they now reside. About the same time Mr. Alexander Murrey came into Clayton; 23d September, Mr. John Axtell, from Maine, arrived

and settled here. In November, following, Mr. Benjamin Strong and Truman Thompson came from Onondaga county, N. Y., and settled in the same neighborhood. These pioneers commenced making such improvements as the exigencies of their condition demanded, and preparing for the future comforts of life. In the latter part of October, 1846, William Berry and John Axtell, having erected a shanty for their common domicile, and covered it with marsh hay, having rejoiced for a few days in so good a dwelling, were at work near by and discovered that their mansion was on fire; they rushed to extinguish the flames, which issued from the hay roof, but on opening the door, the current of air drew the flames into the room. Mrs. Axtell, with a woman's forethought, seized the trunk where they kept their money and succeeded in placing it beyond the reach of the flames; and the sorrow for the loss of an abundant supply of clothing and provisions for a winter in the wilderness, was cheered with thankfulness that their *money* was saved, but the sad recollection came to their minds that a short time before, Mr. A. had put nearly all his money in the pocket of his pantaloons, which were hanging in the shanty and consumed with the rest of their valuable. Another illustration of the hardships and privations of pioneer life may be found in the following narrative.

The settlers were about out of provisions, and it became necessary for some persons to go to Brothertown, which is situated on the east side of Lake Winnebago, after a load of corn. The weather was very cold, but it was arranged that Mr. Benjamin Strong and Judson Thompson should go after the grain. Mrs. Strong, wife of Mr. Strong concluded to accompany them, (she had a child about eighteen months old,) she having some relations in Brothertown. Messrs. Strong and Thompson having purchased their load of corn and completed their business, they commenced their journey homeward. This was the 12th January, 1847. The weather was very cold; the snow about two feet deep. When within about four miles of the lake, they had to cut their own roads, and did not get to the lake until about three o'clock A. M., when they stopped, made a fire by the side of a stump, and ate some food. (Mrs. Strong was a feeble woman.) They resumed their journey at about four o'clock P. M., the wind

blew hard from the west, the snow was drifting very fast; they traveled until dark, when they all became bewildered and could not tell which way to go, but kept as near their course as they could under the circumstances. Finally Mr. Thompson left Mr. and Mrs. Strong with the team and went in pursuit of assistance. At nine o'clock P. M., Mr. Thompson arrived at Harrison Reed's at Neenah, (whose latch-string was always out in those days.) He informed Mr. Reed that Mr. Strong and wife were lost upon the lake. Mr. R. immediately sent his hired man, Gilbert Brooks, with his horses



REED'S RESIDENCE.

From Daguerreotype by J. F. HARRISON.

and sleigh in search of them, and fortunately found them after traveling about five miles, near the north branch of the Lower Fox river, where the ice was so thin he dare drive no farther on account of the cracking of the ice. Mr. S. had unhitched his team from the sled, just as Mr. Brooks found them. Mrs. S. was so cold and exhausted she could not speak; they had to lift her from the sled into the sleigh. They left the sled until morning. One of the oxen had his leg so frozen that the skin came off. The next morning they went after the sled, and pursued their way home where they arrived in safety.



WINNECONNEE, A. D. 1856.

From Duettootype by J. F. HARRISON.

Since then Mrs. Strong has bid farewell to earth, and gone to a world where suffering and sorrow is unknown. May we all be prepared to follow. This is only one of the many trials and hardships encountered by the pioneers of this town.

CLAYTON now contains an industrious, enterprising people, who have grown rich with the country, and now are receiving a remuneration in part for the hardships they have had to endure, they have a fair prospect of a bountiful harvest to reward them for their labor.

Miss Elizabeth McLean taught the first school in the summer of 1849. In the winter following, Mr. Wheeler kept in a log school house, in District number two. The first religious meeting was held in the house of Charles Shoemaker, sermon by Elder W. Ferguson, Free-will Baptist, in October 1847. The first marriage was that of Horace T. Walker to Abby Berry. The first birth in the family of W. Berry, in August 1848. The first death was that of a Mr. Robinson in the Spring of 1847. The town was organized in 1849. At the first town meeting G. W. Giddings was elected Chairman of Supervisors, and J. Balfour Town Clerk. Mr. Giddings was Chairman in 1850 and in 1855. Wm. M. Stewart held the office in 1851, '52 and '56. In '53 Benjamin Strong, and in '54 Ira Baird. There are now good roads in all parts of the town. No intoxicating drinks kept in this town. Five schools, population 775.

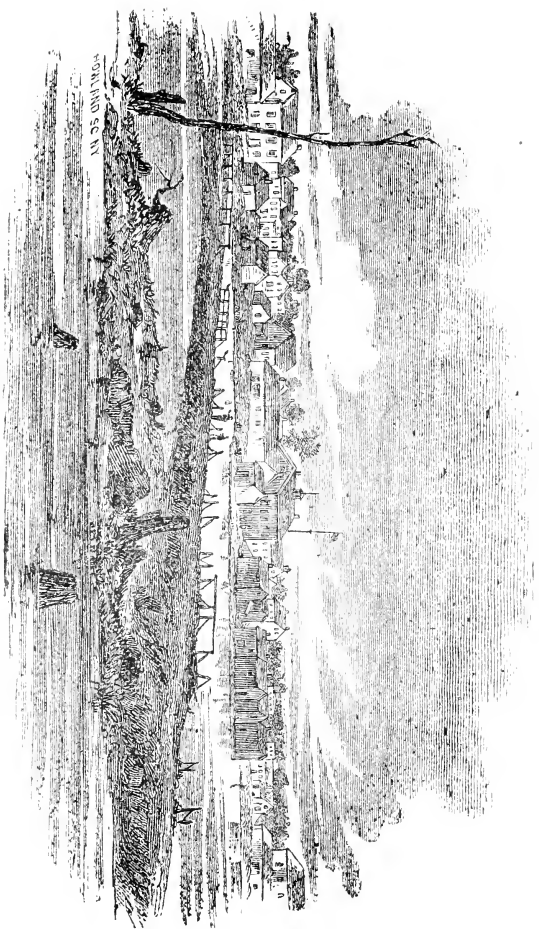
MENASHA,

Lies in the north east corner of Winnebago county and embraces a little more than the north half of Town 20, north of Range 17 east. Menasha is beautifully situated at the north end of Lake Winnebago, on the north outlet of the Lake, which is embraced in this town, and also about half of Doty's Island. Its handsome elevation above the water; its soil of great fertility, covered with a vigorous growth of hard wood timber, presented an inviting aspect to the pioneer, but its pre-eminent excellence was its unrivalled water-power. In 1847, Mr. Curtis Reed, having secured an interest in the real estate, in connection with the Messrs. Doty's water power, commenced his arrange-

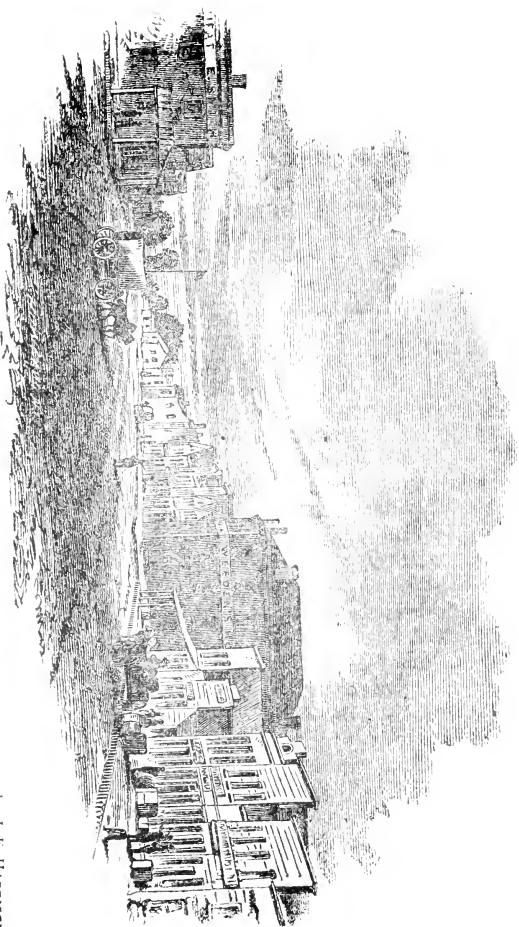
ments for the settlement of Menasha. In 1848 he built a house and store and with a good laboring force commenced the erection of a dam across the river, mills, &c. Gov. Doty and Rev. Mr. Clinton settled upon the Island about the same time. The enterprise and success of these pioneers soon drew about them an energetic set of mechanics and farmers and almost as if by magic the wilderness was changed to a flourishing village. A bridge was soon constructed across Little Butte des Morts Lake, connecting the village with the Green Bay road on the west side of the river. From the commencement of the village, up to the present time, its growth has been healthy and vigorous; mills and manufactories constantly increasing, and the canal of the Fox River improvement running through this village from lake Winnebago to lake Little Buttes des Morts, which is now nearly completed, by which steamers—which have hitherto run only to the wharf above the village—will pass immediately through it, and receive and unload their cargoes in the midst of its population, will greatly add to the facilities of commerce and give additional life and vigor to every branch of enterprise. Menasha was organized a separate town in 1855.

There are now in Menasha two drug stores, five grocery stores, four dry goods stores, one hardware store, two clothing stores, one pail and tub factory, three saw mills, two flouring mills, three cabinet and chair shops, two sash and blind factories, one pottery, one turning shop, one harness shop, one gun shop, four blacksmiths shops, three boot and shoe stores, six hotels, one general land office, one exchange bank, four law offices, two physicians, one warehouse, one printing office and weekly newspaper, two livery stables, four saloons and one express office. In 1855 there were three schools, 243 scholars, and 1,625 inhabitants.

The two outlets of lake Winnebago, upon which stand the villages of Menasha and Neenah, afford the best water power in the state, and as good as can be found in the world. In the midst of an extensive district of inexhaustible agricultural wealth, this immense water power will soon prove itself of more value than a mine of gold. No better place for the investment of capital can be found.



MENASHA, A. D. 1856. From Daguerrotype by J. F. HARRISON.



NEENAH, A. D. 1856.

From Daguerrotypy by J. F. HARRISON.

NEENAH,

Is bounded north by Menasha; east by Lake Winnebago; south by Vinland and Clayton; has an excellent soil and a good supply of timber; was a favorite location of the Winnebago Indians, for whose benefit the United States government established an agricultural school and system of general instruction. After the removal of the Indians, the town was rapidly settled. Mr. Harrison Reed purchased a tract of land and erected the dwelling where he now resides, at the upper part of the village. (See page 78.) Mr. Reed was a practical printer and able editor; had been one of the early conductors of the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, and is the present editor and proprietor of the *Conservator*, published at Neenah and Menasha.

At the northern extremity of Winnebago Lake, it sends its waters through two channels, which leave the Lake about a mile distant from each other, the south branch passing through Neenah and the northern through Menasha, to unite again in the expansion called Little Butte des Morts Lake, between one and two miles below, and forming the little Island, called Doty's Island, (see page 11,) near the middle of which runs the line between Neenah and Menasha. This Island is justly celebrated for the natural beauty of its position and fertility of its soil. On either side passes a majestic stream of never-failing waters, whose rapid current is capable of supplying power to drive almost a continuous line of machinery on each of their banks their whole length. The Lake above forms a reservoir so capacious that the high waters of Spring and Fall produce no dangerous flood on these streams, and during the coldest winter the waters issuing from beneath the ice upon the lake, pass along these streams and drive the mill wheels without the usual inconvenience of freezing. Governor Doty erected buildings and removed to this beautiful Island in 1846, where he still continues to reside. The next year was erected the first framed house in the village of Neenah, a house of public entertainment, the present Exchange Hotel. In 1848 a canal was cut from the Lake, on the Neenah side of the river to Little Butte des Morts, but did not get it com-

pleted with the necessary lockage until 1851. In 1856 steam boats passed daily during part of the season.

In 1847 a large number of buildings were erected, among them two houses of public worship—Presbyterian and Congregational. The village of Neenah now has fifteen dry goods and grocery stores, two hardware stores, two book, drug and jewelry stores, four boot and shoe stores, four flouring mills in operation and another nearly completed, three saw mills, one shingle and lath machine, one planing mill, one harness shop, one barrel factory and machine shop, one sash and blind factory, two cabinet factories with their warerooms, three wagon shops, four blacksmith shops, two printing offices, two merchant tailors, one bank—established for exchange in 1854, became a bank of issue and deposit in 1855; a fine dock and warehouse erected in 1853. There are few villages in the west, or in any part of the country, where so large a share of the first buildings erected are as substantial, elegant and valuable as those of Neenah.

In a level country like Wisconsin, where there is a general scarcity of water power, the advantages of such streams as the Neenah and Menasha outlets to Winnebago lake, will not be overlooked or for any length of time neglected. This section—being the center of a large circle of agricultural soil of the very best quality, embracing abundance of woodland, of which much of the country is destitute, with direct water communication to the immense pineries of the Wolf River, on the line of the Fox River improvement, and already enjoying many of its advantages—Neenah and Menasha, with the Island between them, must soon become one of the most important business places in northern Wisconsin. In 1855 Neenah had two schools, 151 scholars and 1,074 inhabitants.

N E K I M I .

Is bounded north by Algoma; East by Black Wolf; south by Eldorado in the county of Fond du Lac, and west by Utica. This town is five miles east and west by six miles north and south; principally oak openings with a smaller share of native hay fields than in many other towns; yet sufficient in all parts of the town for the support of many cattle. Ne-

kimi has as good soil as any town in the county, the grains, grasses, roots and fruits flourish well wherever cultivated. The surface presents a continued series of beautiful swells and fertile valleys; timber plenty for fuel and fences, good water and some stone.

The first white inhabitant of this town was Mr. A. M. Howard, who in the Spring of 1846, selected the location where he now resides, and in July following removed his family, consisting of his wife and six children; within one month after their arrival there were twenty families in town, and very soon almost every lot had a claim of some kind upon it, and was so far settled as to have two or three populous neighborhoods in less than a year. This town in common with other parts of the county has steadily progressed under the influence of persevering industry and now possesses much wealth, good roads, valuable farms, with every prospect of a successful future.

Mr. Howard, the pioneer settler of Nekimi, was the son of Mr. Nathan Howard, born in the town of Union, Broome Co., N. Y., in June, 1799, was educated a printer, and for many years was employed in the publishing office of M. M. Noah, in the city of New York, where he had abundant opportunity to gratify the claims of his intellectual nature, by the perusal of an infinite variety of books, periodicals, &c. His arduous labors, coupled with the intensity of his studies, soon began to waste his constitution, which was naturally delicate, and in 1827, he wholly retired from the printing business, and engaged his energies in various occupations, which required greater physical exercise, and in a purer atmosphere, than that of a printing office. He married Miss Lucinda Lawrence, in Tioga county, N. Y. When he arrived with his family in Winnebago county, his funded wealth and earthly capital consisted of half a barrel of flour and eleven dollars in money. He had no house or shelter but the kind Heavens, until he could fix a shanty, hewing out puncheons for a floor, as he could then obtain no boards. In about a month Mr. Howard was taken sick, and some one of the family were constantly sick until late in the fall. The house of Mr. Howard was the home for strangers who were looking land, and much time was spent by Mr. H., when able to travel, in assisting them to select good locations; and Mrs. Howard frequently after hav-

ing a severe ague fit in the afternoon, got up and provided supper for eighteen or twenty hungry men. Mr. Howard had pre-empted his land in April; in August following it was withdrawn from market, so that he had until 1850 to pay for it. This respite enabled him to keep his claim and finally pay for his farm, which he could not otherwise have done.

The early settlers of Nekimi, with Mr. Howard, were generally men of piety, and soon established religious meetings, and in the midst of poverty and privations, were happy in their wilderness abode. Mr. Howard, from whom we have gathered most of the foregoing facts, at this time (July 10th. 1856) is apparently in the last stage of consumption, calmly waiting his removal to a better state of existence.

In 1855, there were in Nekimi five schools, 180 scholars, and 797 inhabitants.

NEPEUSKIN,

Is situated in the south-west corner of the county of Winnebago, bounded north by Rushford; east by Utica; south by Ceresco, in the county of Fond du Lac, and west by the county of Marquette. Rush Lake is in this town; its length is about five miles, and greatest width two and a half miles. Nepeuskin presents upon its surface a series of undulations covered with scattering timber, principally burr-oak, sufficient however, for fuel and fences. Hay marshes are abundant and of an excellent quality; the soil being a deep vegetable mould, possessing great fertility and producing immense crops of excellent native hay. They are generally susceptible of being drained and becoming not only the best meadows but equally good for the various kinds of grains. It is worthy of note that these marshes are constantly gaining in their elevation and becoming dry. The soil of the openings is a marly loam with a subsoil of red clay, well adapted to all kinds of agriculture of this section of country. The grains, grasses, roots and fruits have here a luxurious growth and an excellent quality. The first settlement in this town was in March, 1846. Mr. Jonathan Foote and his family, and a nephew, Wm. H. Foote, located themselves, and lodged in their wagon until they built a shanty thirteen feet by sixteen.

in which they resided two or three months, and frequently entertained strangers, sometimes to the number of eighteen or twenty at a time. Mrs. Foote and her daughter Harriet E. Foote were the first white females ever located in this town. May 6th, 1846, Mr. Lucius B. Townsend and his brother arrived in Nepeskin at their location about two hours before sundown; they plowed one furrow, turned out their team, cut some crotches, laid on a pole and rested a few boards, one end upon the pole, the other upon the ground; this was their dwelling for five or six months. They broke sixty acres this season, sowed it to wheat in the fall, from which they harvested 1200 bushels of excellent wheat. The first winter they drew rails and made about four miles of fence. In May 1847, Mr. Alonzo J. Lewis settled in Nepeskin. There were then only two or three shanties north of Ceresco.

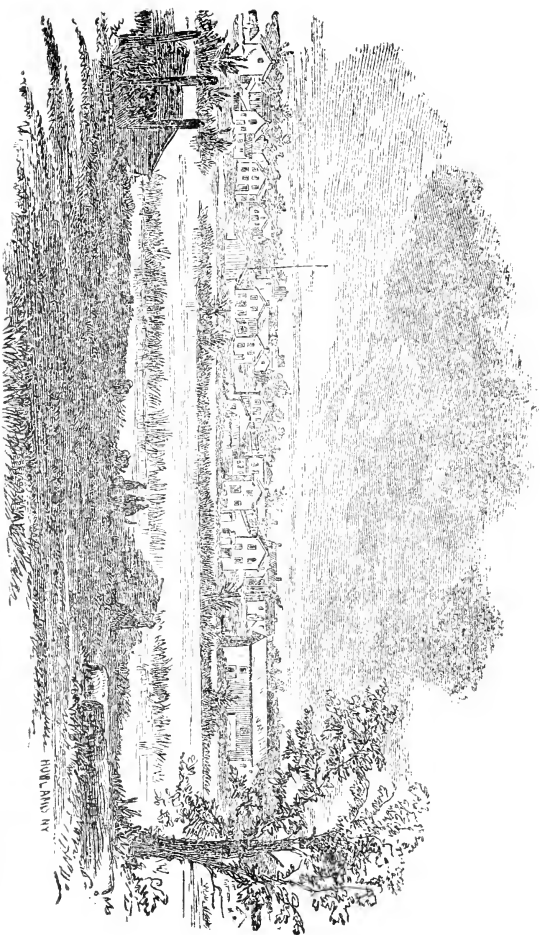
Mr. Johnson came into this town in 1846. Nepeskin, Utica and Rushford then constituted one town, and was called Rushford. Mr. Johnson in discharge of official duty labored much in the survey and location of roads. The first year of his residence in town he assisted to locate over one hundred miles of road; while thus employed he often found himself ten or twelve miles from home, at the close of the day, which he must walk before he went to rest. The town settled rapidly so that within two years after the first improvement was made, there was scarcely a section of good government land in town, all was entered or pre-empted. The first birth among the settlers is believed to be a son in the family of Sydney Van Kirk. The first religious meeting in 1847 at a log school house, sermon by Elder Manning, a Baptist minister. The first death was that of a child of L. B. Johnson, in November 1847. William Smith and Abraham Devere were married to Sarah Foote and Mary Foote, twin sisters, in September 1847, by Rev. Hiram McKee. In 1849, Nepeskin was organized a separate town. Temperance, industry, health and prosperity have ever been visible in this town. There are now good roads, highly cultivated and productive farms, with good farm buildings. In 1855 there were six school districts with 206 scholars and 684 inhabitants. The Horicon and Berlin Railroad, now in progress will pass through a part of this town.

O M R O .

This town is bounded north by Winneconne, east by Algoma, south by Welaunee and west by Rushford. The town is gently undulating, with a pleasing variety of openings, woodland, prairie and native hay fields. The Fox River crosses the north west part of the town, leaving about six sections on the north side, generally timbered with oak, bass, butternut, black-walnut, maple, &c.; a fine sandy loam upon a clay subsoil, alive with warmth and fertility. On the south side burr-oak openings prevail; hay marshes and prairies wind along, offering in every neighborhood an invitation to the plough and scythe. In the Spring of 1846. Hezekiah Gifford, Edward West and a Mr. Monroe, settled in this town, then called Winnebago; they were soon followed by others who continued to come in and so rapidly enter lands that in a short time there was no government land remaining. The first birth in this town was in the family of Edward West in 1846. The first school was taught in his house. The first organization of this town, was by the name of Butte des Morts, in 1847; in 1849, to Bloomingdale, and in 1852, to Omro. In the Fall of 1849 caused to be plotted and surveyed the village of Omro. This village now contains one flouring mill, four steam saw mills, one planing mill, six dry goods stores, one drug and book store, one harness shop, one cabinet shop, five blacksmith shops, three shoe stores, one machine shop, two church edifices, two hotels and one union school house. Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists have their separate congregations and ministers.

This village lies on the south side of Fox river, about ten miles from Oshkosh, has the advantage of steam boat navigation; is surrounded by as beautiful and fertile an agricultural country as any in the west and is full of promise of becoming a prominent business point on Fox river. Generally through the town of Omro, water may be obtained at a moderate depth and frequently the wells immediately fill up and send off a stream from their mouth. Artesian wells may be had at a depth, varying from fifteen to fifty feet.

There was a post office established near the center of the



OMRO, A. D. 1856. From Daguerreotype by J. F. HARRISON.

town in 1847 discontinued in 1852. At Omro in 1850, P. M., W. P. McAllister removed by the present administration; Joseph Banks is the present incumbent.

In 1847 and '48, Edward West, Chairman Supervisors.

In 1849, Nelson Olin.

In 1850 W. W. Wilcox.

In 1851. S. L. Carpenter.

In 1852, G. W. Beckwith.

In 1853, L. F. Arnold.

In 1854, '55, and '56, W. P. McAllister.

At the election, April 6th, 1847, there were cast 18 votes: in April, 1856, 250. The roads are good, many of the farms in a high state of cultivation; numerous orchards beginning to bear, and every portion of the town and every department of business are in a healthful and vigorous prosperity. In 1855 there were 1,605 inhabitants, 8 schools and 540 scholars.

O S H K O S H .

The town of Oshkosh, originally called Winnebago—name changed November, 1852—lies on the west shore of lake Winnebago and principally on the north side of Fox river, a fraction only crossing to the south side. Its first settlement has already been noted on pages 65—6. This town is generally level with gentle undulations, divided into prairies, openings and native hayfields. The soil uniformly consisting of deep vegetable mould and subsoil of red clay or marl. There are but few streams of running water, but good wells are easily obtained, the water being abundant at twenty-five feet at the greatest depth. Artesian wells at from thirty to seventy-five feet. In November, 1855, the town had become so diminished in territory from absorption by the city, that two miles in width from the south side of Vinland, were attached to Oshkosh. The town is now bounded north by Vinland; east by lake Winnebago; south by the city of Oshkosh, and west by Fox river and Big Butte des Morts lake. The inhabitants of this town are principally from New York and the eastern states. The farms are generally in a good state of cultivation and very productive; are now (1856) worth from twelve to fifty dollars per acre, according to location and condition of improvements. Apple, pear, cherry and

plum trees are becoming common upon the cultivated farms, and have as vigorous and healthy a growth as in the best fruit growing sections of New York ; many are beginning to bear, and some which were put out by the first settlers already bear abundantly. This town being the location of the first white settlers in the county, the fruit trees are here, far more advanced than in any other part of the county. Oshkosh is abundantly supplied with native hay, and produces the native grapes in quantity and quality equal to the best eastern meadows. Cattle are easily kept, and many are raised here. The town is in a prosperous condition. In 1855 there was one school, 77 scholars and 345 inhabitants.

O R I H U L A ,

Lies in the north-west corner of the county of Winnebago ; is bounded north by Calidonia, in Waupacca county ; on the east by Winchester ; south by lake Poygan, which separates it from the town of Poygan, and west by Bloomfield, in the county of Waushara. The surface of this town is level with gentle undulations, generally timbered with maple, bass, ash, elm and pine, well watered, the soil a sandy loam, warm, quick and productive. First settled in 1849, by Mr. Page, Mr. Merotn and several Germans, among whom were Mr. Mertten and Mr. Nishoven. The Wolf river runs diagonally across the town from the north-west. The early settlers in this town shared largely in the hardships, privations and difficulties of pioneer life. There was then no steamboats upon the river ; the people were under the necessity of going about 30 miles to Oshkosh to purchase the necessaries of life. The journey could only be made in a small canoe, or by land upon an Indian trail, and frequently took several days to perform the tour : the inhabitants often suffered with hunger.— There are now between twenty and thirty families in town. The growth of this part of the county has been greatly retarded in consequence of the land being taken by non-resident speculators, who, prompted by the beautiful pine mixed with other timber upon a fine soil so near the river, bought up the lands and shut them out from cultivation. The few farms which are cultivated, have fine crops growing upon them.

CITY OF OSHKOSH.

That the mouth of Fox River on Lake Winnebago, was even at an early day considered an important point in northern Wisconsin, is clearly indicated by the record of such slight local operations as make up the early history of a place. An important trail crossed the river here causing the necessity of a ferry. The earliest elections and public meetings of the county were held here. The land on the south side of the river comprising part of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26 were entered in June 1838, and a town plat subsequently made called "Dane City", was exhibited at Green Bay the plat was not placed on record, but lots were contracted and even deeded. W. Stanly, occupied the north side in the fall of 1836 and the Wrights in 1838, but the land was not entered until the Spring of 1840. In February 1842, W. Stanly was authorized by the Territorial Legislature to keep and maintain a ferry for five years. The quiet of this spot was undisturbed save by the bustle occasioned annually by the Indian payment at Poygan, until the summer of 1846, when emigration having commenced, Wm. W. Wright and Joseph Jackson caused a survey to be made of the original plat of Oshkosh, which included the West side of Ferry street, the ferry having been previously removed from the old situation at the extreme mouth where Stanly first located himself, to the present site of the bridge. In March 1847 the first addition was put on record by Lucas M. Miller and others, being part of the old Stanly farm. In February 1847 the State Legislature organized Winnebago County for Judicial purposes, from and after the first day of January 1848 and established the county seat at Oshkosh on Sec. 24, T. 18, R. 16, provided suitable buildings should be furnished free of cost to the county for the next succeeding three years.

In the winter of 1847 Edward Eastman, Chester Ford, S. H. Earnsworth, John Smith, G. F. Wright, L. M. Miller and others were incorporated a Fox River Bridge Company for the purpose of building a bridge at Millers ferry, being the present location of the bridge on Ferry street; the company commenced the erection of the bridge, it was finally taken and completed by Abel Neff. On the evening of the 3d of

July 1849, the first team crossed the bridge, and on the following day the procession celebrating the day marched across the new bridge to the Hotel then kept by Otis & Earl. The first steam saw mill was erected and put in operation by Morris Farmin, being the old mill nearest the mouth of the river, the mill has done service in making lumber up to the present time and is yet effective. In the spring of 1847, Miller and Eastman opened a store in a board shanty near the center of Ferry street as it now runs, this was the first mercantile establishment in the present business part of Oshkosh. The same season Mr. M. Griffin opened a public house in what now is part of the "Oshkosh House" still owned and conducted by Mr. Griffin. Miller and Eastman soon erected the store now occupied by Weed & Gunnaer, on the west side of Ferry street. Whitacre & Langworthy, and A. H. Reed opened a store this season, and Hobert & Blodget opened a law office in Oshkosh, E. Edwards started a shoe shop, and Chauncey W. Foster a blacksmith shop. Many dwellings were erected this year, S. A. Wolcott, erected the house now occupied by Wm. A. Knapp, this year the genius of vitality begun to expand and Oshkosh to be a place of importance, the town flourished for about two years, when two successive unproductive seasons with a general depression in every industrial department, gave a stagnation to the youthful town. In 1852 business was again invigorated, the population increased, real estate began to advance and from that to the present time, progress has been visible, each succeeding year increasing its rapidity.

The natural position of Oshkosh is favorable for a large town lying at the mouth and on both sides of an important river navigable for a great distance, and by the improvement of Fox river connected with the great lakes. Although the banks of the river are low and marshy, for a little distance the land rises above high water mark and gradually ascends to an elevation sufficient to relieve the town from the appearance of being low and marshy. On the north of the river, the lake has a bold bank of several feet elevation, affording a beautiful location for streets and dwellings immediately along the shore. The city authorities, the present season (1856,) have made and are still making great improvements in the streets by opening, widening, grading and building sidewalks.

About 200 dwelling houses have been erected during the past twelve months.

In 1855, there were two schools in the city with 587 scholars besides several private schools. A new and beautiful site for a Union School house has been recently purchased in the grove on Algoma Street, at a cost of \$4,500 where a suitable edifice will soon be erected and the grounds put in tasteful order, by the present vigilant school commissioners.

There are now seven Hotels, twenty-four Saloons, three wholesale Liquor Stores, two Breweries, four Warehouses, seven Clothing Stores, four Hardware and Tin Stores, four Drug Stores, three Cabinet Shops and Chair Factories, three Bakeries, two Banking Houses, one Marble Factory, three Meat Markets, one Fur Store, three Millinery, Fancy Goods and Dress Making Shops, three Harness Shops, three Daguerrean Galleries, five Boot and Shoe Stores, one Leather Store, one Tallow Chandlery, one Soap Factory, three Vinegar Factories, three Cigar Stores, two Billiard Saloons, three Refreshment Rooms, three Barber Shops, three Dentists, two Livery Stables, three Book and Stationery Stores, two Book Binderies, twenty Lawyers, eight Physicians, six Land Agency offices, fourteen Drays, one Auction and Commission Room, eight Churches, one wood yard, fourteen Blacksmiths shops two Plow Factories, one Edge Tool Factory, six Carriage Shops, two Boiler Factories, six Paint Shops, four Cooper Shops, one Fruit Store, three Lumber, Lime, Stone, Sand, and Brick Yards, one Gunsmith Shop, sixteen Dry Goods Crockery &c. Stores, four Lath Mills, five Planing Mills and Sash, Door and Blind Factories, fifteen Mills in operation, one Gang Saw Mill with sixty saws, there is a Lath Machine in connection with most of these Mills. The average amount of lumber sawed annually by each of these mills,—except the Gang Mill—is estimated at 1,500,000 feet, the whole aggregate amount is estimated at 25,000,000 feet per annum.—

Shingles are manufactured to a considerable extent there being four machines capable of manufacturing 20,000 per day each. There are two Grist Mills with three run of stone each, also three Printing Offices, two American and one German.

The average sale of the leading Houses in this town are :

Several Dry Good Stores,	30,000, Each.
“ Hardware “	50,000, “

"	Grocery	"	30,000	"
"	Clothing	"	26,000	"
"	Drug	"	15,000	"
"	Cabinet Ware Rooms,		12,000	"

There are three extensive Machine Shops, and Threshing machine Factories. The amount of machinery turned out in one shop amount to 40,000 per year. There are two Boiler Factory's, turning out 20,000 per year.

There are eight Steam Boats which arrive and depart from our wharves daily, landing from the East an average of from 60 to 80 passengers per day during the season of navigation. Besides these there are numerous Tug Boats employed in towing rafts of lumber, Barges, Logs &c, making in all a large commercial trade.

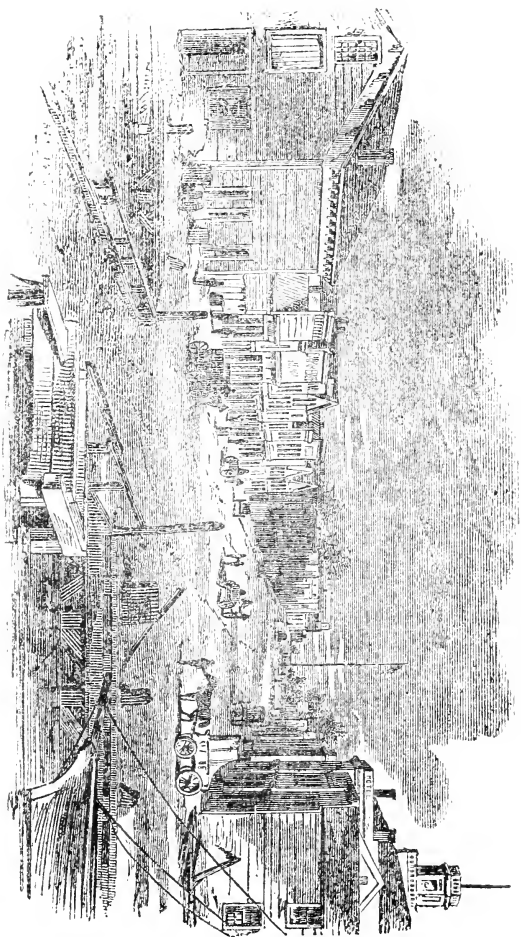
The City of Oshkosh was incorporated by the legislature in March 1853, embracing part of Sections 23, 24, 25, and 26, lying on both sides of the river and containing an area of a little over two square miles. It was divided into three wards the first ward being west of ferry street, the second ward lying east of ferry street and the third ward being on the south side of the river.

The first election was held in April 1853—the following officers were chosen:

Edward Eastman	.....	Mayor.
Wm. Luscher,	.....	City Clerk.
E. R. Baldwin,	.....	Superintendent.
E. M. Neff,	.....	Marshall.
Walter Weed,	.....	Treasurer.
Ald. 1st Ward,	..... Henry Swart, Wm. G. Gumaer.	
“ 2d “	..... M. Griffin, Anton Andrae.	
“ 3d “	..... Abel Neff, Seth Wyman.	
Justice of Peace	..... J. R. Forbes, C. Coolbaugh.	
In 1854, '55,	Joseph Jackson	Mayor.
In 1855,	M. A. Edmonds	Clerk.
Census taken in 1855. Population, 4,118.		

The limits of the city were enlarged by act of Legislature in the winter of 1855, and a new charter granted, the new limits embraces about three miles square of territory and includes the village formerly known as Algoma with its bridge

FERRY-ST., OSHKOSH FROM DUCRETTYPE by J. F. HARRISON





and various tracts of land which had been platted into lots and blocks. There are now five wards, and population about 7,000.

Present Officers.

Mayor, T. A. Follett.

Clerk, J. R. Forbes.

Treasurer, D. C. Hicks.

Marshal, John Ladow.

Superintendent, T. P. Russell.

Attorney, B. Rixford.

Surveyor, F. N. Finney.

Ald. 1st Ward. W. Markham, J. G. Chase, S. M. Hay

" 2d " C. A. Weisbrod, A. A. Austin, A. Ward.

" 3d " A. Neff, L. P. Sheldon, L. B. Reed,

" 4th " G. W. Washburn, D. Evans, W. Wagner.

" 5th " J. F. Mills, H. C. Jewell, C. Petersilea.

Assessors.—P. Ladow, N. Gill, P. Sawyer, E. S. Durfee, D. Evans.

POYGAN.

This town lies on the south side of the Lake from which it takes its name, and is one of the best agricultural townships in the county. Its surface is level, yet moderately undulating, heavily covered with hard timber. It contains abundance of limestone and marl of an excellent quality. It is bounded north by Lake Poygan; east by Winneconne; south by Rushford and west by Waushara county.

On the site of what is now called the "Old Pay Ground," there was an Indian village which flourished under its Chief, Grisley Bear, but at his death declined and soon disappeared. The first payment made at this point was by Mr. Jones of Green Bay, in 1844. In the same year Father Bondnel established, for the Indians, a Catholic mission. He was assisted in the school by Madame Donsemond, of Green Bay.

Mr. George Cowen, a half-breed, from Mackinaw, came with a large stock of Indian goods and established a trading post. The treaty by which the Indians were removed, was made by Col. Medill, in 1848; the details of which were neither creditable to that gentleman nor the government and decidedly unprofitable to the poor Indians, who were so foully cheated that they are now about to pay \$40,000 to obtain a fraction of the restitution to which justice entitled them without cost. The Indian payments continued to be made

annually at this point until 1851, when the Indians were removed to Shawanno and the lands brought into market. Settlements for agricultural purposes immediately commenced.

The wigwam has given place to the farm house; the hunting ground to furrowed fields, and the rude customs of savage life to the conventionalities of civilization. In 1855, there were five school houses, 118 scholars and 401 inhabitants.

RUSHFORD.

The town of Rushford lies on the west line of Winnebago county and is bounded north by Poygan, east by Omro, south by Nepeusken and west by the county of Marquette. This town is watered by Waukau creek, which affords water-power at the village of Waukau, and Fox river which passes from south-west to north-east entirely through the towns, forming a highway for the passage of steamboats, rafts of lumber &c., which are daily passing during the season of navigation. The surface of Rushford, is generally level with waving undulations presenting a pleasing aspect to the beholder, generally covered with scattering oaks; there is a share of the native hay fields in this town, and the Waukau creek has a beautiful fringe of timber upon its banks nearly a mile in width.

The first settlement of this town was in 1846. In the afternoon of March 7th., Mr. L. M. Parsons assisted by Mr. John Wares, a hired man commenced and completed the first house in the town of Rushford. The building was twelve feet long and ten feet wide, made of boards nailed to posts stuck in the ground, and only one story high; as there was no chamber, Mr. Parsons could not accommodate a great number of travelers at a time; but they called often. E. D. Hall, R. Stone and many others came into this town the same spring. The following November there was a school meeting held in the neighborhood and it was ascertained that there were then fourteen resident families. Mr. Parsons erected and put in operation, a saw-mill the first summer of his residence in Rushford.

The first school was kept in the summer of 1847. The same year Rushford was organized a separate town, on the 6th of April the first town meeting was held, and E. D. Hall elected ch'm of supervisors. The Indian village of Waukau

was on the north side of Fox river nearly opposite the ground now occupied by the village of Delhi. "Waukau," in the language of the Winnebago Indians, signifies Zig Zag, lightning. The present village of that name has about 500 inhabitants, has one flouring mill owned by Parsons and Barnum. Three dry goods stores, two groceries, three hotels and two saw mills; a post office was established in 1848, and Mr. White appointed Post Master, up to that time the people went to Ceresco for their mail, a walk of fourteen miles.

Eureka, is a little village of great beauty upon the south bank of Fox river four miles west of Waukau, has one store, one tavern, two steam saw mills, docks, store houses &c.,—The schools in this town are in a flourishing condition, at Waukau there is in progress of completion a union school house at a cost of \$3,000. At Eureka the school has been under the charge of Miss S. A. Steele at a salary of \$40 per month. In 1855 there was in Rushford 13 schools, 612 scholars and 1207 inhabitants.

VINLAND.

Vinland has upon its north side the town of Clayton and part of Neenah, on the east lake Winnebago which separates it from the county of Calumet, on the south is Oshkosh and lake Butte des Morts and on the west lies Winneconnee. No town in Winnebago county has a more interesting diversity of timber land openings, native hay fields and prairie than is presented in Vinland. On the east, along the lake is a beautiful border from one to two miles in width of forest timber consisting of the various kinds of oak, hickory, basswood, butter nut &c., The remainder of the town is openings interspersed with long strips of hay marsh and small prairies.—The opening are gently rolling, the marshes low and level but generally easily drained, when they become the most fruitful fields for grass or grain. Vinland, on account of the fertility of its soil, ease of cultivation, abundance of hay and pleasant location was the selection of some of the pioneer agriculturalists of the county. There were some lands entered for farming purposes in Vinland as early as the spring of 1842. A Doctor Lynde and a brother, who were Danes, Frederick and Jacob Henshaw, C. L. Rich, Stephen Brooks

and T. J. Townsend were among the first who purchased lands in this town. R. S. Lambert moved into this town in November 1846, commenced the improvement on the farm of Mr. O. Brooks, cut timber, put up a log house &c. The settlement of the town had now actually begun and rapidly progressed until the lands were nearly all taken. These pioneers early established religious meetings, Rev. Mr. Slingerland of Stockbridge and Rev. Mr. Clinton of Menasha, occasionally met with the people and preached the word of life. Vinland was organized a separate town in 1849. The first birth in Vinland was a son of P. Tuttle. The first school was taught by Miss Lucy Alden. The first death which occurred in this town is believed to be a Mr. Baird, in the south east corner of the town.

During the last ten years Vinland has changed from the hunting ground of the red man, to the well cultivated fields of the agriculturalist, and now forms part of the great granery of the west, which feeds famishing humanity, not only in our own country, but across the ocean. Good roads, convenient and elegant dwellings and numerous herds of horses, cattle and sheep grazing in their pastures, reminds the traveler of our old settled farming country; but the youthful and vigorous appearance of the apple, pear, plumb and cherry trees, which are abundant, leads the stranger to enquire, how long has this place been settled? When they learn the brief space in which the mighty change has been accomplished, they cease to doubt the fertility and native wealth of Wisconsin.

The offices of Vinland have been held as follows:

SUPERVISOR.

In 1849, O. B. Reed.

In 1850, '51 '52, W. Bowron.

In 1853, Silas M. Allen.

In 1854, '55, W. H. Scott.

In 1856, Horace Clemons.

CLERK.

Jacob Weed.

W. T. Merriman.

M. West.

M. West.

M. West.

There were in 1855, nine schools, 357 scholars and 1090 inhabitants.

WINNECONNE.

Winneconne lies near the centre of the county of Winnebago and is bounded north by Winchester, east by Vinland south by Omro and west by Poygan. The face of the town is level, with gentle undulations diversified with prairie, hay marsh, openings and heavy timber, the soil is of the best quality. About four sections in the north west corner of the town are covered with the waters of Winneconne lake, a broad expansion of the Wolf river which flows from thence by a winding route south easterly through the town to another wide expansion called Lake Butte des Morts. The Fox river enters this town from Omro on the south, and meets the Wolf, Sec. 26, west of the Wolf river, and above its entrance to the Fox, the heavy timber abounds, in the north east part of the town is Bald Prairie, which stretches into Vinland and Clayton, this prairie is curiously striped and dotted with little groves and springs which appear like islands in an ocean; the balance is openings and native hay fields. The first white man ever in this town was Augustine Grignon, who many years previous to any settlement of the county, came into this place for the purpose of trade with the Indians.

The first settler for agricultural purposes, was Mr. George Bell, who, with his family settled on Bald Prairie in Winneconne, May 1846. They came from Toronto, C. W. It was several days before they got a shanty erected, they toiled and slept under the open canopy in this great unbroken flower garden. Mrs. Bell was the first white women in town, her children the first white children, she harrowed in the first wheat field in town and drove the first ox team from Winneconne to Neenah with a load of wheat to mill. Mr. Bell was soon joined by Mr. McConpier, Ashley, Bowlden, Wright, Allen and Calkins. The 20th of May 1847, Mr. John Cross arrived with his family, in September following A. and O. Rice settled in Winneconne. Mr. J. Pritchett built a log house where the village now stands; in 1848 Ira Avery and son entered lands at the village, also Rowel Kellog; in 1849 Col. C. R. Hamlin from Ohio, moved to the village there then being two primitive dwellings, he fitted up an old dilapidated building which had been erected for government purposes and open-

ed a tavern, the next summer he put up and opened the large public house where he still continues to entertain strangers to the satisfaction of all concerned. E. D. and C. L. Gumaer erected the first frame building at the village in 1849, at this point there is now a good substantial draw bridge across the river, which is daily passed by steam boats; there are also some half dozen stores; three meeting houses; plenty of mechanic shops steam mill &c.

There were some circumstances which rendered the hardships of the early settlers in this town, greater than were generally endured in this country. The inhabitants on Bald prairie were attacked with sickness; all but the wife of Mr. Bell were sick, she had an excellent constitution, enjoyed health, and that physical and moral heroism which enabled her, when her husband was unable to do anything, to yoke the oxen and harrow in the seed, and in the month of September, when the whole neighborhood was sick, often living only upon boiled wheat, against the remonstrance of her friends, to start with an ox team, with twenty bushels of wheat on one Indian trail where a team had never passed, 12 miles to Neenah, she was at first refused grinding, but her indomitable perseverance overcame the miller, she got her flour and returned, attended by the music howled by numerous wolves, and arrived at home about 11 o'clock at night. It is needless to say that the Bell family have had plenty of flour ever since, they still reside on the same farm, now worth seven or eight thousand dollars.

Winneconne was organized in 1848, James Fisk was elected Chairman of Supervisors.

In 1849 and '50, Wm. Cross.

In 1851, Stephen Allen.

In 1852, Jonathan Dougherty.

In 1853, S. A. Gallup.

In 1854, Charles Church.

In 1855, J. Fish.

In 1856, L. Webster.

In 1855, there were 4 schools, 231 scholars. Pop. 8,30.

A circumstance took place in this town among the Indians, after the town was partially settled and before the Indians removed, which we deem worth recording, as illustrative of Indian character. In the summer of 1849 there was a squaw

among them of no particular age, who claimed the affections of an Indian who was by many years her junior, she became jealous that her attachment was not reciprocated and in her deep wrath at her fickle swain, stabbed him in the breast so that he died instantly. She was large, athletic and defiant, few men were able to stand before her in a conflict; their custom required the life of the murderer, but she announced that if any Indian attempted to inflict the death penalty upon her, there would be four or five more dead Indians. Apparently there was little notice taken of the matter, and people supposed the murderer would go unpunished; the young chiefs were frequently passing from one band to another, none but themselves knew or mistrusted their business; at length an Indian feast and dance was noticed to come off in a short time; the period arrived; the Indians were all in attendance, among them was one noted for his quiet and inoffensive character, called "Old Pete," the feast was passed, the dance commenced, mirth and hilarity was universal among them; "Old Pete" and the murderess were dancing near each other the music was loud and stirring, the dance and mirth at a high pitch, when the murderess shrieked and fell dead in the midst. Music and dance instantly ceased, the squaw had been stabbed, but the dancers knew not by whose hand the deed had been done, when "Old Pete" left the astonished company, walked to an eminence at a little distance, and stood with that stoical indifference which none but an Indian can assume. E. D. Gumaer, (our informant) passed near him, looked him in the face and smiled, Pete relaxed his features and returned the smile, then again resumed a countenance of rigid indifference. He was reported to Oshkosh the head chief, who said the act was done under the direction of the council of all the bands. All was right, quiet and harmony returned.

W E L A U N E E ,

This town (formerly Utica,) is six miles square, is situated about nine miles south west of Oshkosh and is bounded north by Omro, east by Nekimi, south by Ceresco in the county of Fond du Lac and west by Nepeuskin. The surface of Welaunee presents the most pleasing variety of prairie, openings, native hay marsh and small clusters of timber. The native hay fields stretch and wind into almost every section of the town supplying an abundance of grass and hay of an excellent quality, which springs up from a black vegetable mould of great depth and unexhaustable fertility. Liberty prairie, accupies the central portion of the town, with its broad planes and graceful undulations, the northern and southern portions of the town are openings, beautifully diversified with strips of native hay fields. The timber consists principally of the different varieties of oak commonly found in Wisconsin. The soil a deep black loam with a subsoil of clay impregnated with oxyde of iron as to give it a strong resemblance to red chalk. This subsoil possesses the elements of great fertility which are developed by atmospheric action. On the whole this town naturally presents one of the most inviting fields for agricultural enterprise to be found in Winnebago county. There is a moderate supply of springs and streams of running water, the principle stream is eight mile creek which runs through the north part of the town. The outlet of Rush lake passes through the north west part of the town. The first settlement was in 1846. Messrs. Leth, Harris, Armine, Pickett, D. H. Nash, Lucius Hawley, E. B. Fish, J. M. Little and Rev. Hiram McKee were among the first settlers. Rev. H. McKee was the first clergyman in town and held the first religious meeting,, Wesleyan Methodist.

The first settlement was made on Liberty prairie, this township then formed part of the town of Rushford. Nearly the whole township was entered within two years, and in 1848 was organized a separate town by the name of Utica. The first town meeting was held at the house of Mr. Lucius Hawley, D. H. Nash was elected to the office of chairman of the board supervisors and Ely N. Hyde, town clerk. These offices have since been filled as follows :

SUPERVISORS.

In 1849, D. H. Nash.

In 1850, D. B. Babcock.

In 1851, Armine Pickett.

In 1852, J. H. Woodruff.

In 1853, J. H. Woodruff.

In 1854, Armine Pickett.

In 1855, Armine Pickett.

CLERKS.

W. A. Hyatt.

Nelson Wentworth.

A. J. Thrall.

A. J. Thrall.

F. Jewett.

Wm. Blanchard.

Wm. Blanchard.

The population is principally composed of emigrants from the older states, with a large portion of Welch.

Liberty prairie took its name from the attachment of the early settlers to the principles of the "Liberty party" of those days. The fourth of July 1846, the first season of the settlement, was celebrated by these pioneers in a grove, the doctrines of '76 declared as their political creed, an oration delivered by Rev. H. McKee, and the prairie christened with the imposing name of "Liberty."

There are in Welaunee, two post offices, Welaunee and Fisks Corners. This town continued the name of Utica until 1856. In 1855 there were six school houses, 276 scholars, 824 inhabitants.

WINCHESTER.

Winchester lies on the north side of Winnebago county and is bounded north by Deale, in the county of Outagamie, east by Clinton, south by Winneconne and west by Orahula. is about twenty-five miles north west from Oshkosh. The face of the country is rolling, in some places approaching to hills, the low lands are timbered with elm, bass, poplar and ash, with occasional sugar maple, the more elevated lands are oak openings finely diversified with hickory, and on the ridges are scattering pine. The soil on the high ridges is a yellow sand, on the openings a sandy loam, the lower lands a black vegetable mould, with sandy loam and a rich clay sub-soil.

Rat river and several smaller streams run through this town to lake Poygan, Along the banks of Rat river there is a large amount of marshy land, and settlers in that neighborhood have not always escaped fever and ague, although the town is healthy.

The first settlement was made in this town by Jerome R. Hopkins, in the winter of 1848. In March following, Mr. Samuel Rogers removed from Walworth county with his family—parents, wife and six children; ten in all, was eleven days performing the journey of 128 miles. His parents were both sick on the way but recovered soon.

James H. Jones and several others came into Winchester in the spring of 1848. No roads or bridges: these early settlers suffered much, but courage and perseverance kept them up and supplied their necessity, and after a time surrounded them with comforts. The first death which occurred in this town was a child of Jerome Hopkins in August 1848. The first sermon preached in this town was by Frederick Patridge in June 7, 1850.

Winchester was organized as a separate town in 1852.—John Annuson was elected Chairman of supervisors, which office he held until April 1856, when Mr. J. H. Jones was elected to that office. In 1852 S. R. Hopkins was town clerk. In 1853, '54, '55, Mr. Ole Oleson held that office. In 1856 John H. Clark was town clerk. Farms are now worth from \$5 to \$25 per acre. In 1855—1 school and 48 scholars.—Population, 84.

G R O W T H O F O S H K O S H .

In order to enable the reader to form some just conception of the growth of Oshkosh, we copy an article from the *Oshkosh Democrat* of March 2nd, 1849, which exhibits its condition at that time. It now stands with a seven years growth added to its stature.

"Oshkosh was so named in honor of Oshkosh, the principal Chief of the Menomonee Indians, whose lands, in and adjoining our immediate neighborhood were lately purchased by the general Government.

The village is located on the north side of the Neenah or Fox River, near its confluence with Lake Winnebago, about twenty miles north of Fond du Lac, and fifty south of Green Bay.

No steps were taken toward the formation of a village until the summer of 1846. At that time there were no dwellings except one store or trading post, owned by Mr. A. Dodge, and four or five farm houses withing a circuit of as many miles. During the summer settlers began to arrive, and Messrs. Wright and Jackson surveyed off a portion of their lands into lots, and these met with ready sale, and almost instantaneously buildings of every grade were erected, although there was then the greatest difficulty in procuring the necessary materials; but the pioneers went to work with a persevering determination, hewing the whole of their frame work, studs, beams and rafters, from the woods, and obtaining lumber as best they could, so that in the month of September there was one tavern, three stores, one shoe shop, shingle factory, and about twenty dwellings finished or in progress, and settlers were arriving every day, and most interesting scenes of bustling excitement and industry were to be seen at all times.

Early in the winter, an addition to the village was surveyed out from a purchase of Messrs. Miller and Eastman from Col. Conklin of Taycheedah, and in an incredible short time, the whole of the principal and best lots were sold, and through the whole winter, building was going on lively, rafts of timber having arrived from the Pinery before the season closed, but it sold at exorbitant prices.

A new interest was given to the village while the Territorial Legislature were in session, by the passage of a bill removing the County Seat from an isolated and unsettled point to Oshkosh, at which the good citizens took occasion to rejoice liberally.

Such was the first settlement of Oshkosh, and since that time its growth has exceeded the most sanguine hopes and expectations of every one. At the present date the village contains a population of 486; of which 207 are females, and 279 males. There are six extensive dry good stores, four groceries, seven lawyers, two shoe shops, two taverns, one recess, one steam saw mill, one tin shop, one sash, shingle and furniture factory, two cabinet makers, one physician, one watch-maker, one gunsmith, one harness maker, three blacksmith shops, employing eleven hands, and one newspaper establishment. Besides these there are a good assortment of mechanics, and the necessary offices and county buildings, schools, &c., and every day witnesses the arrival of some one or more families, and since the census was taken for this article, several large families have come among us. It is also computed that not less than one hundred of our male population are at the present time engaged in the lumbering business in the pinery."

"WESTWARD HO!"

The very general interest manifested by eastern people in the development of Wisconsin and the rapidity with which the State is increasing its population, is owing, in no small degree, to the fact that reliable information is becoming daily more and more generally diffused in regard to its salubrity of climate, natural advantages, internal improvements, and the almost magic growth of its cities, towns and villages and perhaps more than all the knowledge that relations, friends and neighbors have very generally achieved more than their most sanguine hopes promised them by the exchange of location. The emigration to Wisconsin now includes all classes of people. The producers, as in all new countries, were the pioneers, but capitalists soon found ample room for investments,

more remunerative than at the east and equally as safe. There are still thousands of persons at the east, mechanics, artizans, working people, who look toward the west with a disposition to emigrate, perhaps they mete out from year to year a bare subsistence, the year rolls by and if they have enjoyed the right to labor during the bulk of it they still have accumulated but little, and how common is it for a mechanic in our large cities to be thrown out of work for months at a time, but they hesitate to take what seems an important step in their lives, not from a fear of inconveniences to be met or perhaps privations to be endured, these they would cheerfully submit to, but the uncertainty of immediate employment; such need not be the case. The working man at the west need never be idle, it is pre-eminently the place for working people, the whole country is in a state of transition, rapidly going on. What has been done at the east has yet to be done here, the numerous channels of business, into which it requires years to attain a successful position at the east are either just opened to enterprize at the west, or await, perhaps another years agricultural settlement, as we chance to look at a point just bursting into notice, or another with a few years the advantage—hence the newly arrived mechanic, artizan, or manufacturer, asks himself, not where can I find an opening? but which is the best. It is also not uncommon, on the contrary, quite a common case that a person after a short residence at the west finds himself deserting the regular business to which he had devoted his life, and following one in which he sees there is more profit, readily adapting himself to the change as he sees other do around him, hence it is that western people universally acquire a certain degree of self reliance, a conscious independence as to the certainty of a competent living at least, acquired with the knowledge of the demands and ability of a new country. Persons who have lived at the west any length of time have none of the hesitancy about moving to a point still further in advance so often exhibited by eastern people. To farmers there is every inducement offered, the new counties offer lands at low prices to those of limited means, while those who prefer to, and are able, can buy second hand farms either improved or unimproved in the older counties and have advantages which the same amount of capital would utterly fail to procure at the east, it

is this fact that induces most of the farming emigration. The prairies and openings of Wisconsin offer farms wild or improved of a quality which the same means could not purchase at the east, while the rapidity with which internal improvements advance, approximates with each year the value of produce nearer the market prices of the east, and consequently gives an enhanced value to their farms.

The advantage of the sure and rapid increase in the value of real estate is not confined to the farmer, it is shared equally to say the least, by all the various classes who make up the population of a village, town or city, and is sure to be embraced in proportion to their means, first by securing a homestead and afterward by judicious investments, the result of which is that in a few years their expectations are more than realized.

No part of the State bids fairer to become important and populous than Winnebago County. In healthfulness it cannot be exceeded; for agricultural purposes it presents a happy combination of prairie, openings, timber and natural meadow. Government land it is true, cannot at this time be obtained, but good unimproved lands can be obtained from three to ten dollars per acre; land of superior quality and location being obtained at the latter price. Improved farms can be obtained of all classes, from the one just commenced with a log or small frame house and perhaps a small piece of breaking fenced—to the thoroughly improved farm, with excellent buildings, orchards set out at from ten to twenty five dollars per acre. The water powers of Neenah, Menasha and Waukau afford abundant opportunity to the enterprising manufacturer. For purposes of inland commerce the county stands unrivalled in the State. On the east is Lake Winnebago, a beautiful sheet of water, thirty miles long by twelve broad, from which steamboats can pass into Lake Michigan, through the lower Fox and into which steamboats can pass from the upper Fox or Wolf, the first in connection with the Wisconsin, affording a passage for freight from the Mississippi—the latter navigable for a distance of one hundred and fifty miles in a north-westerly direction. So extensive an inland commerce as is here presented, foretells the growth of a great business in steamboat building, and consequently that of the manufacture of engines and boilers; both kinds of business

requiring large numbers of hands, and both of which have already commenced to considerable an extent. The produce of the Wolf river pineries, although but lately noticed has hitherto been underated; it has been estimated by persons well acquainted with the business, that in logs and lumber an amount equal to not less than seventy-five millions of feet of pine lumber, passed down Wolf river last year, and will not be less the present season; the business is increasing and employs a great many men and teams. It is estimated that the work of each ox team and the number of hands to employ it will clear from five to seven hundred dollars in a season, over expenses, although there are instances in which nearly double that amount has been made. The lumber business is a leading feature in the business of Winnebago county, for, although there is no pine in the county of any amount, its situation makes it the recipient of nearly the whole trade. Most of those engaged in the lumber business of Wolf river, are from the State of Maine, and state that the facility for getting logs out and running them, as superior to any thing in their experience. The opportunities for going into the business have been very favorable to poor men, and at the present time there is no class of people in a more thriving condition than the lumbermen. Pine lands are now held at from five to ten dollars per acre, and in some instances as high as twenty for choice tracts.

With the advantage offered in great water power for manufacturing; superior facilities for internal commerce, a great lumber trade, and the addition of an excellent farming country around. Winnebago county needs only time to concentrate within her limits a population equal to that of any in the State. At this time there is therefore every inducement offered to those persons at the east who desire to emigrate and grow up with the country. With a combination of four of the great resources of a country at one point, the necessity of the various industrial vocations must follow in their train, presenting a field for individual enterprize not frequently met with.

CONCLUSION.

The uninterrupted prosperity and success which have attended the various branches of enterprise and industry in the county of Winnebago, from its earliest settlement to the present day; the change from an almost unbroken wilderness, to a rich and populous county, in the brief space of ten years, naturally leads the mind to contemplations of deep interest and inquiry, with regard to the condition which the progressive energies of the people, will in the future, work out for this young and promising County.

When we reflect that the germs of the future, in latent embryo are contained in the bosom of the present; that "to-day" is forever giving character and color, to the destinies of "to-morrow;" we have only to examine the resources of wealth, or raw material, which the County naturally presents for improvement, the strength, skill, and aptitude of the people, to lay hold of natural advantages, and convert them to the most profitable form, and productive application, in order, justly to appreciate the energies and skill, which have been put forth by the early settlers in this county; the results of which are so attractive to the traveler, it should be borne in mind, that the county of Winnebago was not settled by capitalists, bringing great funds to expend, in subduing and cultivating new lands; but almost exclusively by men, who were unable to purchase farms in the old States, whose physical and mental energies constituted their funded wealth.

Men of nerve, muscle and bone, with *hearts*, throbbing with cheering hopes, and invincible determination to better their own conditions by improving the condition of the world, with *heads* full of that practical logic, which proves that human effort, judiciously directed, and put forth as a living fiat, that it "shall be done," can convert waste wilderness into fertile fields, and all earth's treasures to the happiness of man, and more than all with *hands* accustomed to demonstrating the fact.

This was the capital invested for the settlement and improvement of Winnebago County. A *currency* which was not subject to the fluctuations of any Stock, Exchange company, and which could never be bought up by Stockjobbers.

Men of independent mind and effort, whose activities were controlled by the dictates of their own judgement. The bosom of the earth, teeming with fertility, was spread out before them; beneath the tough web of sward, lay one vast garden, pregnant with all delicious fruits; a deposite of incomparably greater wealth, than all the gold mines of California.

This capital has been active and vigorous. Its creative energies have brought into existence nearly all the pecuniary wealth of the County.

These are here, the toilers, who have wrought this great work, who are now garnering rich harvests from the fields their hands subdued; in the vigor of manhood, with motive power unabated, stored with the wisdom, and with the honors of past victories, in past labors, surrounded with the abundant aid which wealth brings to industry, with this increased ratio of power, the problem of the future destiny of Winnebago County is to be worked out.

But a small portion of the soil has yet been broken, the cultivation has been upon the principle of getting in as many acres as possible, with the least possible expense. The quantity of uncultivated land is so great, that none have felt the necessity of putting their fields in the most productive condition, by a high state of cultivation.

It is universally admitted, that the surest index of the progressive energies of an agricultural community, is discovered in the condition of the *Roads* and *School Houses*.

The light of science to illuminate and invigorate the natural powers, and facilities of communication which tend to develop the social nature of man, and bring into visibility the varied interest, by which he is connected with the whole human family; as these are appreciated, cultivated and brought into constant use, the vital energies, the enduring strength and substantial wealth of a community is advanced. If we adopt this general rule in the County of Winnebago, and take the condition of public roads and school houses, present, progressing and prospective, as a fair exponent of its vital energies, we know of no rural district, so thinly populated, which could claim to be its rival, and to find its equal, we should have to select some of the new Counties in Northern Wisconsin.

Whatever road the traveler may select in this County, he

will not progress far on his journey, without having his attention attracted by a district school house, erected upon a pleasant spot, neatly finished and painted, generally surrounded with shade trees and pleasant play ground, for the children. If he enters this little seminary, he will find the interior judiciously and tastefully arranged, and furnished with Black Boards, Maps, Charts, and the most approved apparatus for aiding the pupils in their various studies. The laws of Wisconsin make liberal provisions for the support of Common Schools, and in this County they are generally well applied.

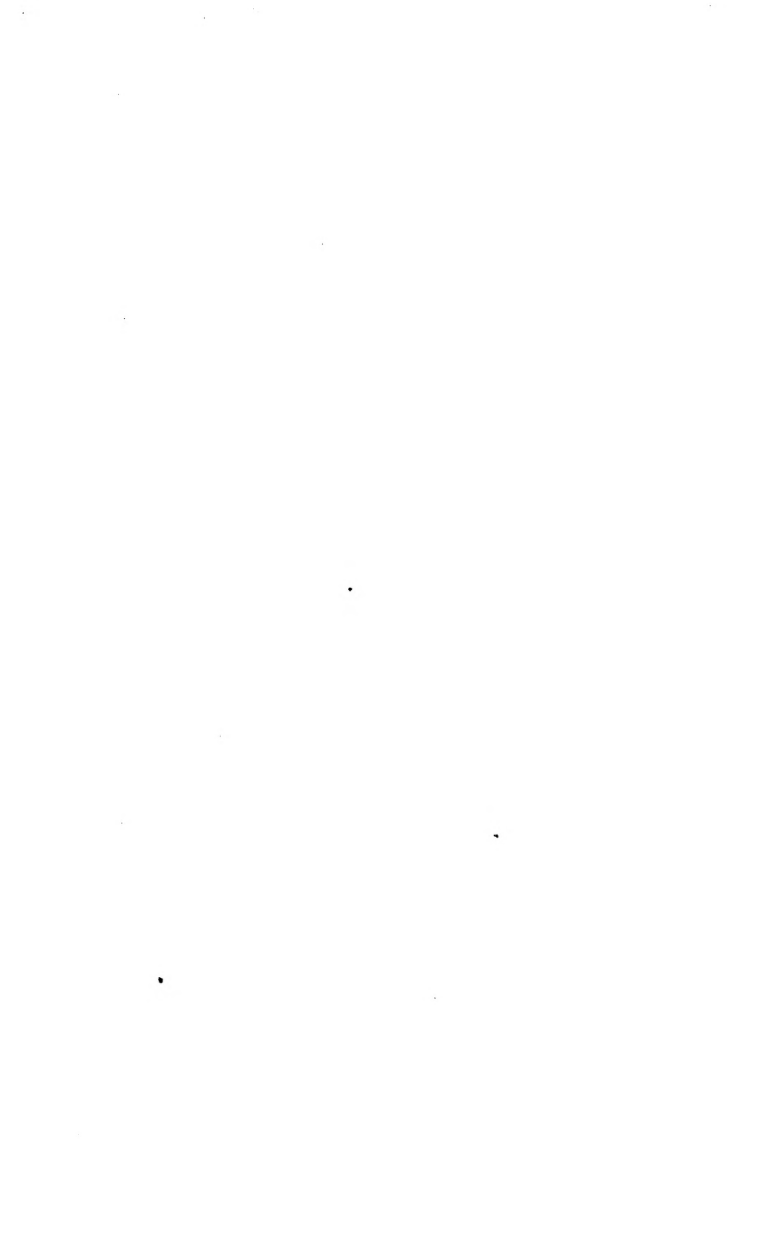
A professional man in Wisconsin, if he has not talent, must at least have *tact* and energy, or he will have the misfortune, to find himself an entire failure.

Lawyers, Doctors, and Ministers, like business men, and laborers at the west, must be men of energy; determined to succeed, and write their name or make their mark on society by manly effort, or success is not for them.

This county has not suffered as much as many others from the withering curse of land monopoly. Resident land holders have, generally, with a wise liberality, offered good inducements to the various branches of industry and useful talent, which no sham aristocracy could ever control. Few places can boast a larger share of industry, intelligence and independence, than the county of Winnebago.

The laborer does not disgrace his high and noble calling, by a mean servility to the man of wealth; but inspired with an elevating consciousness, that he is one of the world's conquerors, and benefactors, he stands with head erect, among his peers.

If the exertions, the never ceasing activities of the people of Winnebago, are wisely and judiciously directed, a brilliant destiny awaits them. The Great Proprietor of all things, has dealt with a bountiful hand in bestowing a treasure of enduring wealth, in the fertility of the soil. Surrounded it with all the natural conveniences and facilities for social intercourse, with all other parts of the country. Stored it with springs, streams, and fountains of the purest liquid that Heaven's mercy furnishes for Earth's necessity; and furnished it with innumerable perennial beauties, of which the Maker himself, could say, "Behold: They are very good."





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